SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
MYSTERY IN SPACE
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FEB.
NO. 89
IN THIS ISSUE... AN ADAM STRANGE THRILLER!
A HIGH-FLYING HAWKMAN ADVENTURE... "The SUPER-MOTORIZED MENACE!"

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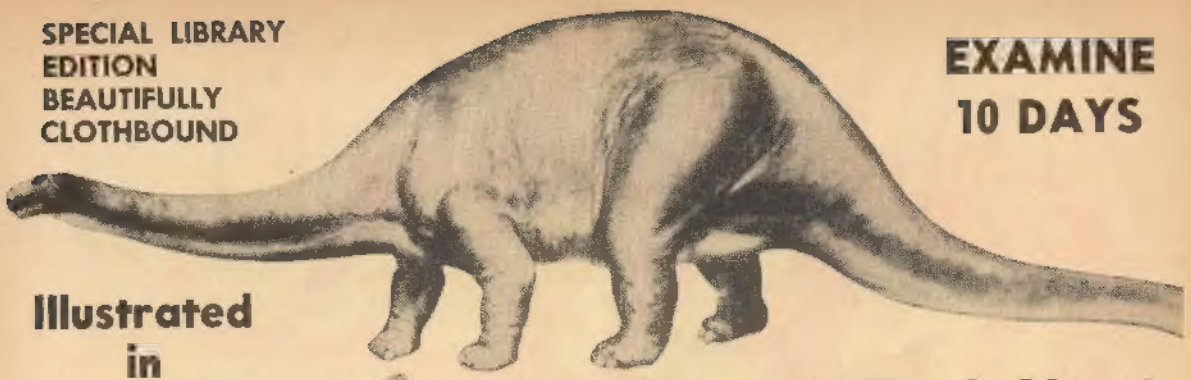
EXAMINE 10 DAYS



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HAWKMAN

UNLESS I CAN BREAK FREE OF THIS TORNADO THAT GRIPS ME--I'LL END UP WITH THE MOTORCYCLE THAT CAUSES IT--ON THOSE JAGGED ROCKS BELOW!
OUT OF THE MURKY DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT, INTO THE MISTS OF EARLY DAWN, COMES AN AMAZING THIEF! HIS MOTORCYCLE IS HIS WEAPON, HIS DEVICE FOR ROBBING AND ESCAPING! AGAINST THIS VEHICULAR VILLAIN, THE WINGED WONDER NOT ONLY FINDS HIMSELF HELPLESS BUT--IN A GRIM BATTLE FOR HIS VERY LIFE!

The Super-MOTORIZED Menace!

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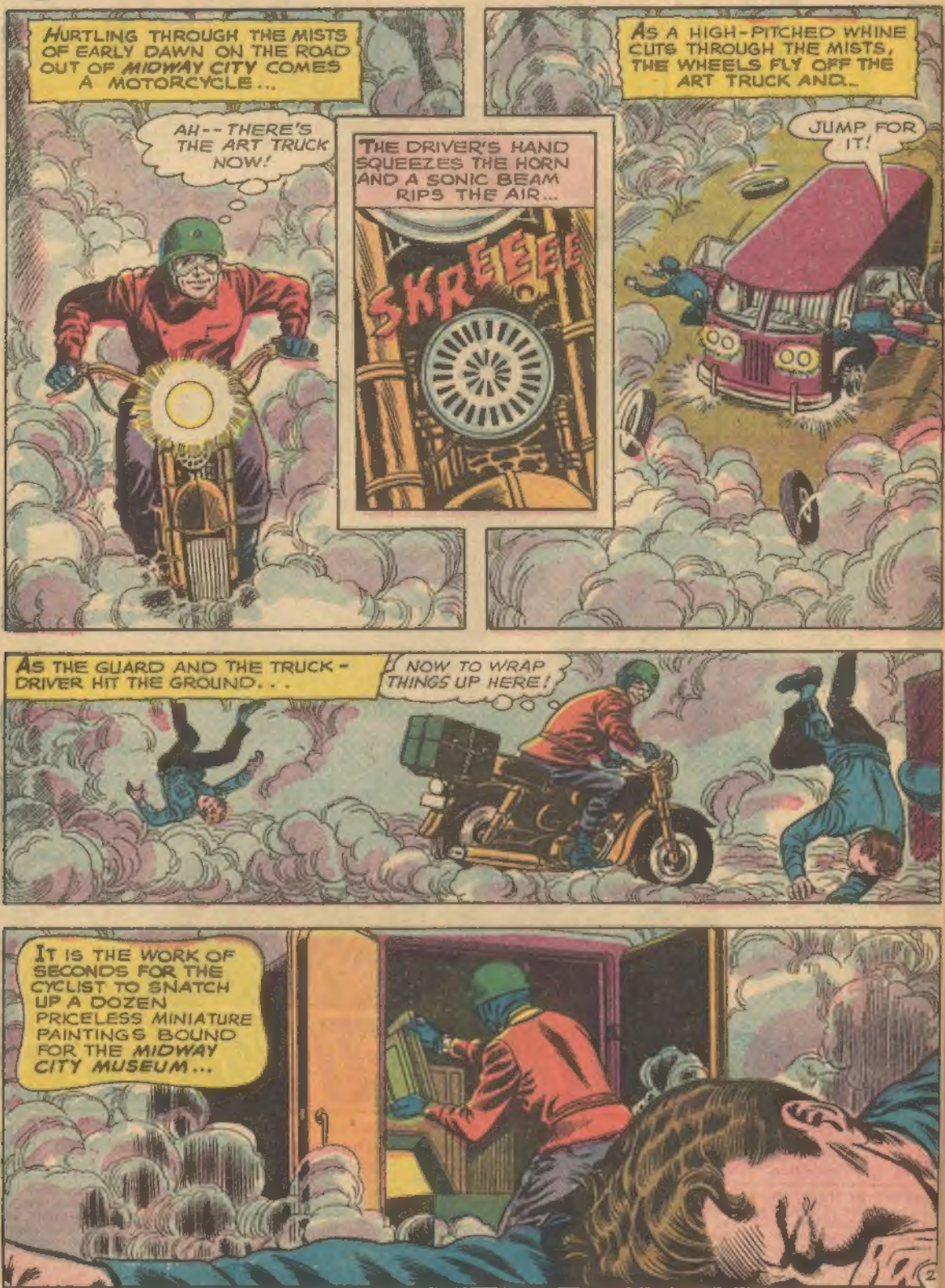
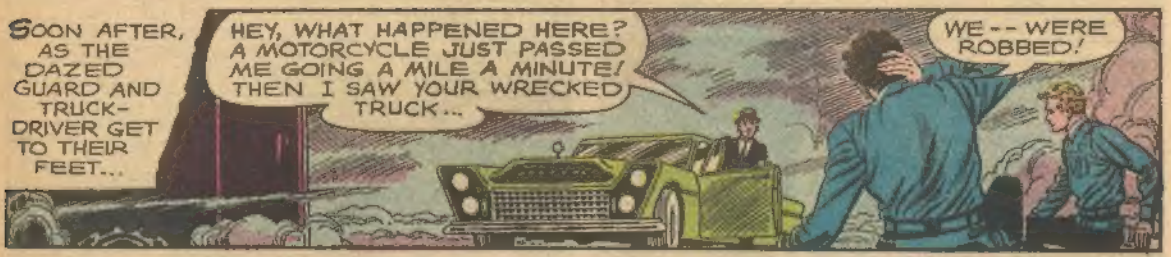

HURTLING THROUGH THE MISTS OF EARLY DAWN ON THE ROAD OUT OF MIDWAY CITY COMES A MOTORCYCLE...
AH--THERE'S THE ART TRUCK NOW!
THE DRIVER'S HAND SQUEEZES THE HORN AND A SONIC BEAM RIPS THE AIR...
SKREEEE
AS A HIGH-PITCHED WHINE CUTS THROUGH THE MISTS, THE WHEELS FLY OFF THE ART TRUCK AND..
JUMP FOR IT!
AS THE GUARD AND THE TRUCK-DRIVER HIT THE GROUND...
NOW TO WRAP THINGS UP HERE!
IT IS THE WORK OF SECONDS FOR THE CYCLIST TO SNATCH UP A DOZEN PRICELESS MINIATURE PAINTINGS BOUND FOR THE MIDWAY CITY MUSEUM...

THEN THE MOTORCYCLE RACES TOWARD MIDWAY CITY AS THE SHROUDING MISTS WRAP AROUND IT LIKE FLEECY COTTON...


SOON AFTER, AS THE DAZED GUARD AND TRUCK-DRIVER GET TO THEIR FEET...
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED HERE? A MOTORCYCLE JUST PASSED ME GOING A MILE A MINUTE! THEN I SAW YOUR WRECKED TRUCK...
WE -- WERE ROBBED!

I'M JED BARNES, A CUB REPORTER ON THE MIDWAY CITY COURIER. TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT TOOK PLACE.
A MAN ON A GIMMICKED UP MOTORCYCLE BLEW HIS HORN AT US AND-- PLOP! THE TRUCK WHEELS FELL OFF! KNOCKED OUT WHEN WE JUMPED-- WE COULDN'T STOP HIM FROM TAKING A NUMBER OF PAINTINGS.

MAN, WHAT A STORY! THIS'LL MAKE MY EDITOR SIT UP AND NOTICE ME. I'LL PHONE THE POLICE TO GET OUT HERE FAST-- THEN CALL IN MY STORY!

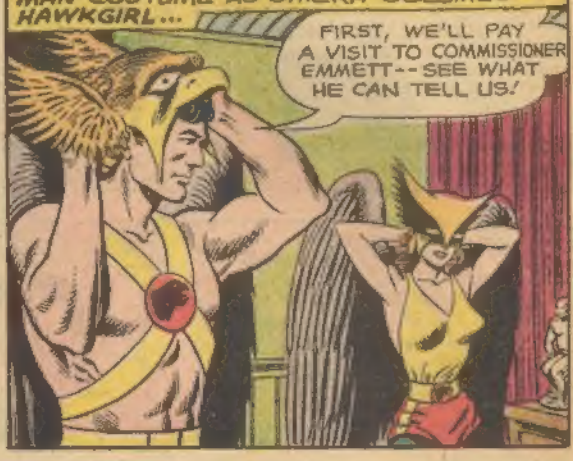
IT IS STILL EARLY IN THE MORNING WHEN THE CUB REPORTER, FOLLOWING UP HIS STORY, APPEARS AT THE MIDWAY CITY MUSEUM...
OH, HOW AWFUL! THOSE TWELVE PAINTINGS WERE ON LOAN FROM A NEW YORK ART GALLERY! WAIT TILL CARTER HALL-- THE CURATOR-- HEARS ABOUT THIS ROBBERY WHEN HE RETURNS LATER TODAY...
MEAN-WHILE, YOU CAN FILL ME IN ABOUT THOSE PAINTINGS, MISS TRENT.

MUSEUM WORKER MAVIS TRENT GIVES REPORTER BARNES THE INTERVIEW HE WANTS...
NOW HOW ABOUT A NICE SHOT OF YOU, MISS TRENT, TO DRESS UP OUR STORY...
SURE!

LATER THAT DAY, WHEN MUSEUM CURATOR CARTER (*HAWKMAN*) HALL AND HIS WIFE SHIERA (*HAWKGIRL*) RETURN FROM A CURATORS' CONVENTION, THEY FIND...

AS MAVIS TRENT POURS OUT THE STORY...

LATER, IN THE PRIVATE OFFICES OF THE CURATOR, CARTER HALL DONS HIS *HAWKMAN* COSTUME AS SHIERA BECOMES *HAWKGIRL*...

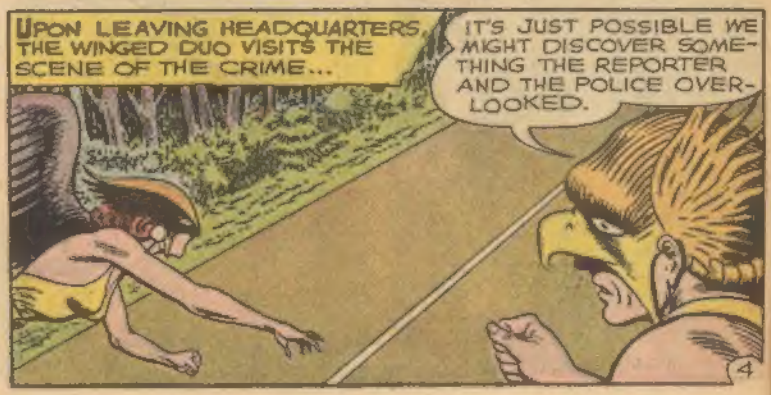


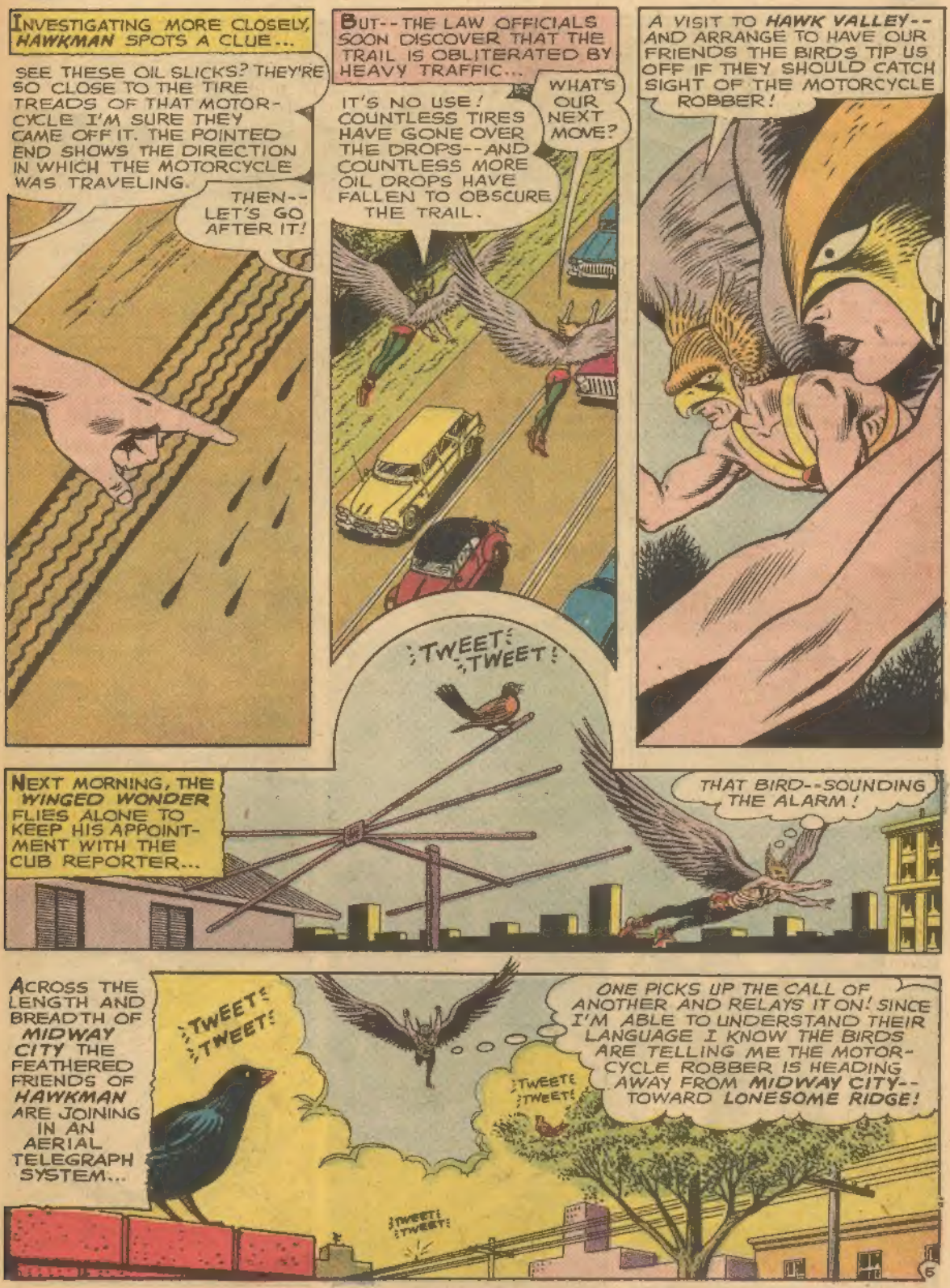
UPWARD THROUGH THE SECRET PANEL IN THE ROOF FLY THE POLICE OFFICERS FROM THE PLANET *THANAGAR* WHO HAVE COME TO EARTH TO STUDY "OUR" POLICE METHODS.

MINUTES LATER THEY ARE CLOSETED WITH THEIR GOOD FRIEND, THE POLICE COMMISSIONER OF *MIDWAY CITY*...

THE POLICE KNOW NOTHING MORE THAN IS IN THE PAPERS, *HAWKMAN*. AND SPEAKING OF NEWSPAPERS--THAT REPORTER WANTS TO DO A SPECIAL FEATURE ON YOU. HE'D LIKE AN INTERVIEW TOMORROW MORNING AT ELEVEN.
WHY NOT? ANYTHING TO HELP PREVENT CRIME. I'LL BE HERE...

UPON LEAVING HEADQUARTERS, THE WINGED DUO VISITS THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...




INVESTIGATING MORE CLOSELY, HAWKMAN SPOTS A CLUE...
SEE THESE OIL SLICKS? THEY'RE SO CLOSE TO THE TIRE TREADS OF THAT MOTORCYCLE I'M SURE THEY CAME OFF IT. THE POINTED END SHOWS THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE MOTORCYCLE WAS TRAVELING.
THEN--LET'S GO AFTER IT!
BUT--THE LAW OFFICIALS SOON DISCOVER THAT THE TRAIL IS OBLITERATED BY HEAVY TRAFFIC...
IT'S NO USE! COUNTLESS TIRES HAVE GONE OVER THE DROPS--AND COUNTLESS MORE OIL DROPS HAVE FALLEN TO OBSCURE THE TRAIL.
WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE?
A VISIT TO HAWK VALLEY--AND ARRANGE TO HAVE OUR FRIENDS THE BIRDS TIP US OFF IF THEY SHOULD CATCH SIGHT OF THE MOTORCYCLE ROBBER!
TWEET! TWEET!
NEXT MORNING, THE WINGED WONDER FLIES ALONE TO KEEP HIS APPOINTMENT WITH THE CUB REPORTER...
THAT BIRD--SOUNDING THE ALARM!
ACROSS THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF MIDWAY CITY THE FEATHERED FRIENDS OF HAWKMAN ARE JOINING IN AN AERIAL TELEGRAPH SYSTEM...
TWEET! TWEET!
ONE PICKS UP THE CALL OF ANOTHER AND RELAYS IT ON! SINCE I'M ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THEIR LANGUAGE I KNOW THE BIRDS ARE TELLING ME THE MOTORCYCLE ROBBER IS HEADING AWAY FROM MIDWAY CITY--TOWARD LONESOME RIDGE!
TWEET! TWEET!
TWEET! TWEET!

PINIONS FLAILING THE AIR, THE FLYING FURY COURSES ABOVE A LONELY COUNTRY ROAD...
THE CYCLIST HAS TO COME THIS WAY, SINCE IT'S THE ONLY ROAD HEREABOUTS FOR MILES. TOO BAD I HAVE TO DISAPPOINT THAT CUB REPORTER BUT--THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY INTERVIEW!

WITHIN MOMENTS HE SIGHTS THE SUPER-MOTORIZED MENACE...
MAYBE I'LL NOT ONLY HAVE A GOOD STORY FOR THAT REPORTER--BUT A PRISONER FOR HIM TO INTERVIEW AS WELL!

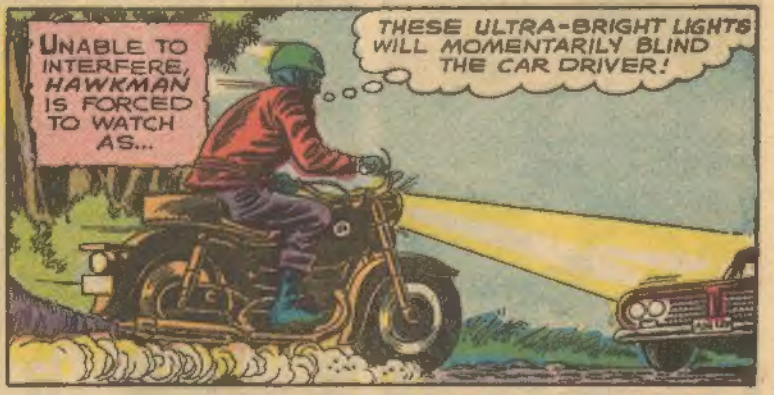
SUDDENLY THE FACE OF THE CYCLIST TURNS UPWARD, STARK SURPRISE ETCHED ON HIS FEATURES...
HAWKMAN! I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE YOU HERE! BUT--SINCE YOU ARE HERE--I'LL GIVE YOU A RIP-ROARING RECEPTION!

INSTANTLY A SPECIAL EXHAUST PIPE GOES INTO ACTION--FLINGING UP A SPIRALING TORNADO OF ROTATING AIR THAT TRAPS THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER AS EFFECTIVELY AS MIGHT A NET!...
UHHH! I'M CAUGHT--BEING WHIRLED AROUND AND AROUND!

THAT TOWERING COLUMN OF SPINNING AIR GRIPS AND HOLDS HAWKMAN, WHIPPING HIM IN GREAT CIRCLES EVEN AS HE STRUGGLES WITH ALL HIS MIGHT TO BREAK ITS CLUTCH...
NO MATTER HOW I BEAT MY WINGS--I CAN'T BREAK FREE!

FASTER GOES THE MOTORCYCLE! TIGHTER THE TORNADO GRIPS THE WINGED WONDER! AND NEARER COMES THE CAR THE CYCLIST MEANS TO ROB...
THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME A THIEF EVER TOOK A LAWMAN ALONG ON A JOB--AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I LIKE THE IDEA!

IN THAT ONCOMING CAR IS THE PAYROLL CLERK OF A BIG CORPORATION--WITH HALF A MILLION DOLLARS IN SMALL BILLS IN A CASE!


UNABLE TO INTERFERE, HAWKMAN IS FORCED TO WATCH AS...
THESE ULTRA-BRIGHT LIGHTS WILL MOMENTARILY BLIND THE CAR DRIVER!

THAT FLARING INCANDESCENCE SEEMS TO HIT THE WINDSHIELD AND SPLASH...
AIEEEE! I CAN'T SEE!

AS THE CAR CAREENS OFF THE ROAD AND OVER-TURNS, THE CYCLIST LEAPS FROM HIS MOTORCYCLE..
FROM HERE ON-- YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, HAWKMAN! I'VE SET THE CONTROLS ON AUTOMATIC!

WHILE THE MOTORCYCLE THUNDERS ON, CARRYING HAWKMAN IN ITS WAKE, THE ROBBER GRABS THE PAYROLL CASE...
THE CLERK IS UNCONSCIOUS BUT OTHERWISE UNHARMED. WITH MONEY HE WAS CARRYING, I'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE HIGH THE REST OF MY LIFE!

AHEAD OF HIM THE TRAPPED CRIME-FIGHTER SEES THE CURVE IN THE ROAD KNOWN AS DEAD MAN'S CORNER-- AND THE CLIFF BEYOND...
WHERE THE ROAD CURVES-- THE MOTORCYCLE WILL KEEP GOING STRAIGHT, CARRYING ME WITH IT-- OVER THE EDGE OF THAT CLIFF!

NEXT MOMENT THE RACING MOTORCYCLE IS OFF THE ROAD AND PLUNGING OVER THE RIM OF THE CLIFF...
ONLY ONE CHANCE NOW TO SAVE MYSELF FROM CRASHING WITH THE MOTORCYCLE ON THE ROCKS BELOW!

IN MID-AIR, HAWKMAN DOUBLES UP HIS LEGS.
GOT TO STRETCH MY HAND A LITTLE MORE AND-- AH! I'VE REACHED MY BOOT. !
PULLING OFF HIS FOOTGEAR, HE HURLS IT--WITH ALL THE ACCURACY AND CONTROL OF A MAJOR LEAGUE PITCHER--STRAIGHT FOR THE MAW OF THE EXHAUST PIPE!...
THIS WILL HAVE TO BE A PERFECT "STRIKE"--OR I'M "OUT"!
POWERED BY THE MIGHTY ARM OF THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER, THE BOOT SMACKS INTO ITS TARGET--CLOGGING THE PIPE THAT CREATES THE TORNADO WHICH HOLDS HAWKMAN IN THRALL
INSTANTLY THE TORNADO DIES OUT AND THE MOTORCYCLE HITS THE ROCKS AS.
GOT AWAY--JUST IN TIME!

RECOVERING HIS BOOT, HAWKMAN RISES SWIFTLY FROM THE GORGE TO THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT WHERE...
HE GOT AWAY, I GUESS. ALL I KNOW IS — THE PAYROLL'S GONE!
I'LL SCOUT THE AREA--

BUT AFTER AN INTENSIVE SEARCH, DISAPPOINTMENT GNAWS SHARPLY IN THE WINGED WONDER
STILL NO TRACE OF HIM! IF I COULD JUST FIND--

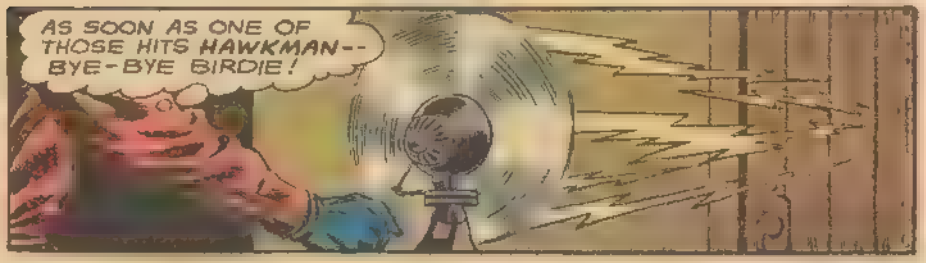
THEN ON A DUSTY SIDE ROAD, HIS EAGLE-SHARP EYES DISCOVER...
GOT A BREAK AT LAST! THESE OIL SLICKS ARE JUST LIKE THE ONES HAWKGIRL AND I SAW NEAR THE SITE OF THE PREVIOUS ROBBERY AND--THE SAME TIRE TREADS!

THE ROBBER MUST HAVE PRACTICED HIS PAYROLL ROBBERY MANY TIMES--USING THIS RARELY TRAVELED SIDE ROAD TO COME AND GO. BY FOLLOWING THE OIL SLICKS--THEY MAY LEAD ME TO HIS HIDEOUT!

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF THE THREADS AND THE OIL SLICKS, THE WINGED WONDER FINDS A LITTLE WOODS CABIN...
I CAN'T TELL WHETHER THE THIEF IS STILL IN THERE--BUT IT'S CLEAR HE'S BEEN USING THIS PLACE TO KEEP HIS MOTORCYCLE!

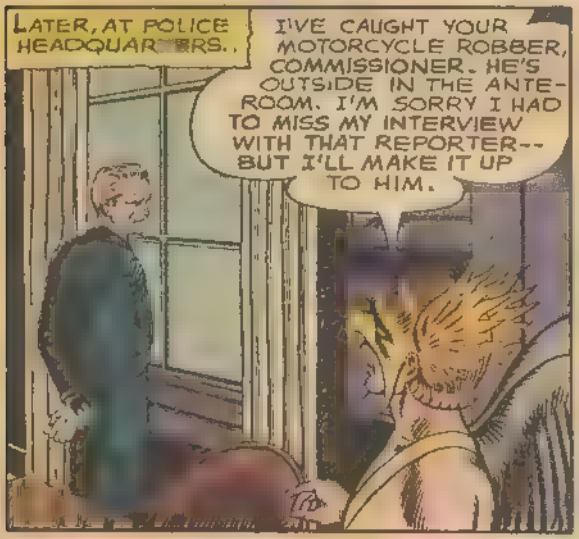
INSIDE THE CABIN...
HUH? HAWKMAN! BUT--HOW? I THOUGHT I'D TAKEN CARE OF HIM! IT'S A GOOD THING I HAVE ONE LAST MOTORIZED GADGET TO HURL AT HIM AS SOON AS HE COMES THROUGH THAT DOOR!

LEAPING TOWARD A NEARBY FAN, HE THROWS OVER THE SWITCH THAT ACTIVATES IT AS THE SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED "FAN" HURLS GREAT BOLTS OF ENERGY STRAIGHT FOR THE DOOR...

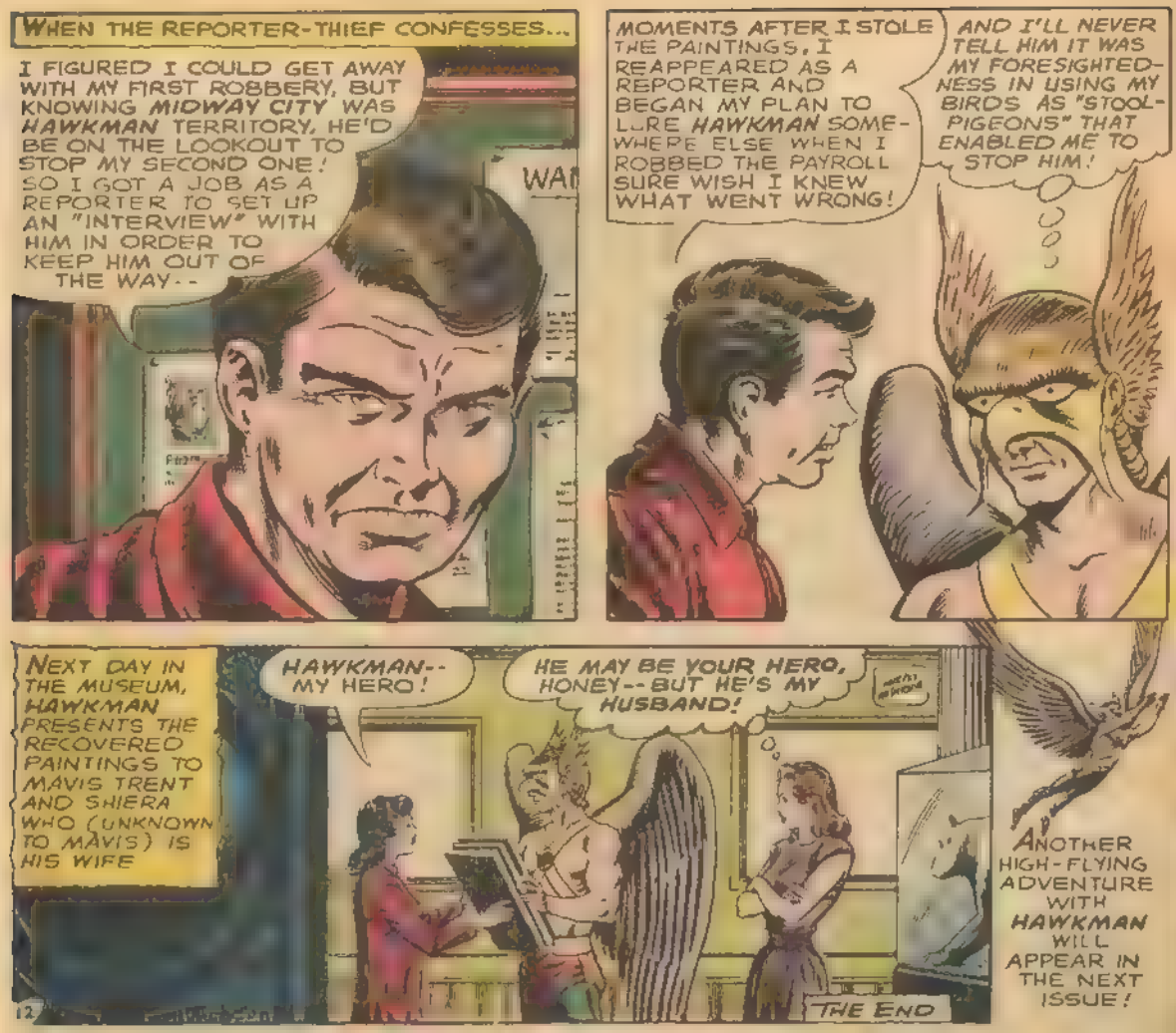


BUT-- THE SHARP EYES OF THE *WINGED WONDER* HAVE DETECTED A MOMENTARY WAVERING OF THE CABIN'S ELECTRIC LIGHT AS THE GENERATOR TURNED ON THE FAN AND SO...

SO FAST IS HE TRAVELING THAT DOOR AND CRIME-FIGHTER, FAN AND ROBBER COME TOGETHER IN AN ELECTRICAL EXPLOSION!..
OHHHH!
SOUNDS AS IF I'VE STRUCK PAYDIRT!


LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS..
I'VE CAUGHT YOUR MOTORCYCLE ROBBER, COMMISSIONER. HE'S OUTSIDE IN THE ANTE-ROOM. I'M SORRY I HAD TO MISS MY INTERVIEW WITH THAT REPORTER-- BUT I'LL MAKE IT UP TO HIM.

THEN, AS POLICE COMMISSIONER EMMETT SETS EYES ON THE ROBBER...
REPORTER? WHY--THAT'S THE REPORTER RIGHT THERE-- YOUR PRISONER! YOU NEVER SAW THE REPORTER SO THERE WAS NO WAY FOR YOU TO RECOGNIZE HIM!


WHEN THE REPORTER-THIEF CONFESSES...
I FIGURED I COULD GET AWAY WITH MY FIRST ROBBERY, BUT KNOWING MIDWAY CITY WAS HAWKMAN TERRITORY, HE'D BE ON THE LOOKOUT TO STOP MY SECOND ONE! SO I GOT A JOB AS A REPORTER TO SET UP AN "INTERVIEW" WITH HIM IN ORDER TO KEEP HIM OUT OF THE WAY--
MOMENTS AFTER I STOLE THE PAINTINGS, I REAPPEARED AS A REPORTER AND BEGAN MY PLAN TO LURE HAWKMAN SOMEWHERE ELSE WHEN I ROBBED THE PAYROLL SURE WISH I KNEW WHAT WENT WRONG!
AND I'LL NEVER TELL HIM IT WAS MY FORESIGHTEDNESS IN USING MY BIRDS AS "STOOL-PIGEONS" THAT ENABLED ME TO STOP HIM!
NEXT DAY IN THE MUSEUM, HAWKMAN PRESENTS THE RECOVERED PAINTINGS TO MAVIS TRENT AND SHIERA WHO (UNKNOWN TO MAVIS) IS HIS WIFE
HAWKMAN-- MY HERO!
HE MAY BE YOUR HERO, HONEY-- BUT HE'S MY HUSBAND!
THE END
ANOTHER HIGH-FLYING ADVENTURE WITH HAWKMAN WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

For The VERY BEST

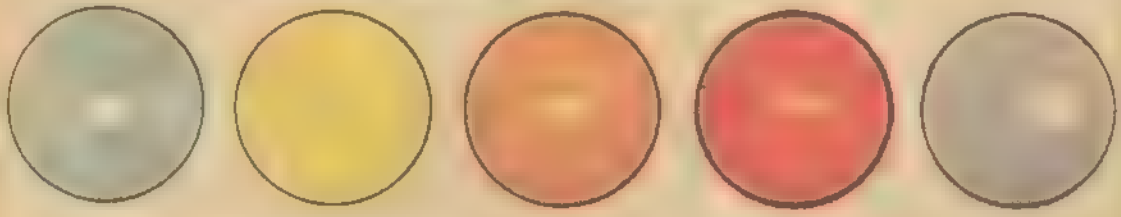
SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

in COMICS READING

OUR STRANGE UNIVERSE

THE DIFFERENCE IN COLOR BETWEEN THE WAY A STAR IS SEEN VISUALLY AND PHOTOGRAPHICALLY IS CALLED THE STAR'S **COLOR INDEX**--AND IS A FUNCTION OF ITS **TEMPERATURE**...

VARIOUS COLORS OF STARS



35,000 TO 60,000°F (MAXIMUM HEAT)

11,000°F (OUR SUN IS A YELLOW DWARF)

7500°F

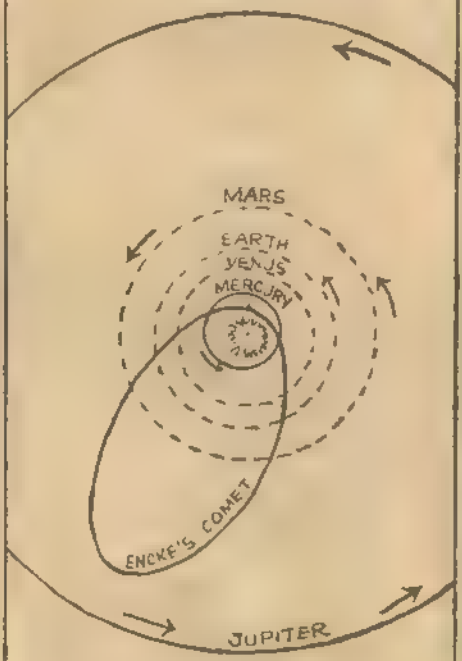
5500°F

COOLING STAR

SUPERNOVAE OCCUR AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF ABOUT ONE IN EACH GALAXY EVERY 300 YEARS. RECENTLY A **SUPERNOVA** 100,000,000 TIMES AS BRIGHT AS OUR SUN BLAZED FORTH IN THE SOUTHERN SKY...

SUPERNOVA WHICH APPEARED IN THE SPIRAL NEBULA M 100 IN 1901

AS A RULE, COMETS BECOME OBSERVABLE ONLY WHEN THEY ARE LESS THAN TWICE THE EARTH'S DISTANCE FROM THE SUN...



ORBIT OF ENCKE'S COMET

OF THE 51 STARS CLOSEST TO US, 16 ARE BINARY STAR-SYSTEMS AND 3 ARE TRIPLE STARS

THE TRIPLE STAR SYSTEM OF **GAMMA ANDROMADAE**

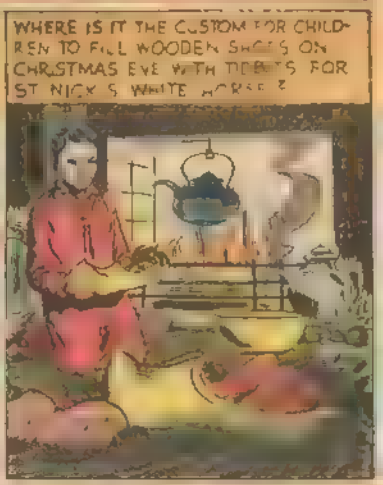
Special Christmas Quiz

"Christmas in Many Lands!"

(ANSWERS IN LAST PANEL)

IN WHAT COUNTRY DO THE CHILDREN MAKE AN OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS TREE OF WHEAT SHEAVES FOR THE BIRDS?

"BREAKING THE PIÑATA" IS A CHRISTMAS GAME IN WHICH BLINDFOLDED CHILDREN SMASH A BIZARRE CLAY POT WHICH SPILLS OUT CANDIES AND GOOD-LUCK CHARMS. IN WHAT COUNTRY IS IT PLAYED?



WHERE IS IT THE CUSTOM FOR CHILDREN TO FILL WOODEN SHOES ON CHRISTMAS EVE WITH TIDBITS FOR ST. NICK'S WHITE HORSE?

WHERE DO PEOPLE OBSERVE CHRISTMAS BY GATHERING AROUND A LIGHTED COMMUNITY TREE IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE TO SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS?

IN WHAT COUNTRY IS A CHRISTMAS CEREMONY PERFORMED IN WHICH THE MOTHER CLUCKS LIKE A HEN AND HER CHILDREN CHIRP LIKE CHICKENS, WHILE SCATTERING STRAW ON THE FLOOR OF THEIR HOME?

WHERE IS THE CHRISTMAS FIESTA CLIMAXED BY A GAY DANCE CALLED THE *CUECA*, PERFORMED OUTDOORS UNDER A SUMMER SKY BY A COWBOY AND A COUNTRY GIRL?

THE ANSWERS...

READ UPSIDE DOWN

1. NORWAY
2. MEXICO
3. BELGIUM
4. UNITED STATES
5. YUGOSLAVIA
6. CHILE

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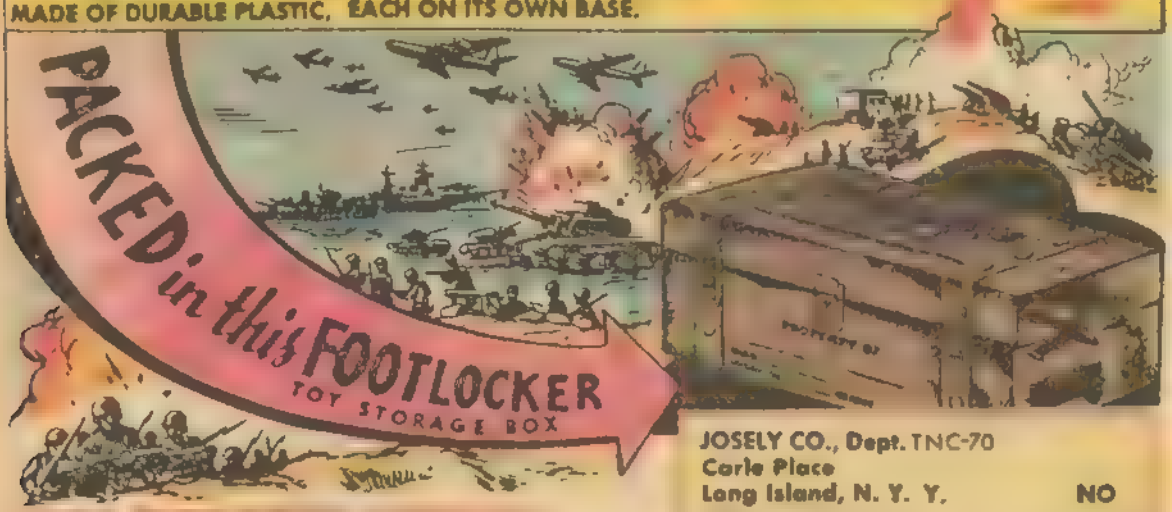

4 Tanks	8 Machinegunners	4 Bombers
4 Jeeps	8 Sharpshooters	4 Trucks
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4 Cruisers	8 Officers	8 Cannon
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Dear Editor: Although I have been an avid supporter of DC Comics for many years, I cannot remember *any* issue of *any* magazine which was so jam-packed with surprises as the September, 1963 *Mystery in Space!*

First off, there was the cover. That alone was enough to make the issue a masterpiece! The gray background had a touch to it that seemed to solidify the whole scene, creating a fabulously realistic effect. As for the giant hand crashing through the ice, I can say little more than *gigantically great*

Surprise number two was the brilliantly-written story, "Attack of the Underworld Giants." *Adam Strange's* ingenious method of reentering *Ranagar* (hitching a teleportational ride with the giants' stolen treasures) caught me completely unprepared and was definitely the high point of the story

The next surprise was the revelation that the only victory *Adam* had won was in his dreams, and the natural follow-up came when *Alanna* told our hero that he had missed out on a chance for a menace-free visit to *Rann*.

The fourth and biggest treat for us by-now flabbergasted readers was the startling announcement that a new series of *Hawkman* adventures would begin in the next issue. This is certain to have tremendous repercussions, and I am quite confident that thousands of readers will make *Mystery in Space* their number one comic now that it features two of comicdom's greatest heroes

The fifth and final surprise was the great new *Star Rovers* story. Although I am crazy about your system of having our three stars tell their individual stories, and then finding and defeating the real menace as a team, I would like to see a yarn in which one of the *Star Rovers* comes up with the solution independently of the others

Joseph Farrell, 2 Garrigus Ct., Wolcott 16, Conn

(Reader Farrell is in for another surprise, to be added to the five that have already thrilled him the award of the original cover illustration for "Attack of the Underworld Giants!"--*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: The September *Mystery in Space* was very different from most previous issues. First of all, this is the first *Adam Strange* story, I believe, that has been inked by Sid Greene. Next comes the first time that a *civilized* Earthman—a U.S. Naval Commander, no less—has seen *Adam* in his rocket suit (except for Adam's adventure which began with the *zeta-beam* over South Africa's diamond mines) Probably the biggest "first" was when *Adam* discovered the entire adventure was all a logically conceived dream!

No doubt, someone will write to inform you that on page 5, panels 3 and 4, *Adam* is fighting a giant with two left hands. It's later explained that there was only one Gargantua beneath the ice, so the explanation that another giant had stuck *his* left hand out of the ice to capture *Adam Strange* is no good

I have, after racking my brains for hours, come up with the solution: since the whole yarn turned out to be a dream, *Adam's* first visions of the giant were confused, due to the blow he received from the missiles before being knocked unconscious Therefore, he saw in his "mixed-up" mind, the two left hands. If anyone can think of a better explanation than *that*, I'll eat the original artwork for "Attack of the Underworld Giants!"

T. Gleeson, 215 4th St., Scotia 2, N. Y

(Your left-handed explanation sounds exactly right to us—so you won't have to go through with your threat to eat the original artwork on "Attack of the Underworld Giants"—which, incidentally, is being awarded to you for your fine letter. The only mistake *you* made concerning this story is crediting Sid Greene with the inking instead of John Giunta! The latter name will be familiar to readers of the pulp science-fiction magazines, for whom Giunta has been illustrating stories for many years.—*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: Have you guys become simpletons or something? I refer you to the September *Mystery in Space* and the *Star Rovers'* story, "When Did Earth Vanish?" The tale was excellent, as usual, but after page 3, I had already figured out the ending!

Now something is rotten in—er—outer space! In the past, all *MIS* stories have had me thrilled to the end. There are three reasons for this: (1) terrific plot; (2) terrific characterization; (3) an ending nobody could guess. But when I (dull-minded old me) can guess an ending (the correct one at that), a miracle has occurred. Either I've turned into a genius or you guys at DC are slipping. (Now I know the latter is not possible so just call me "Brains"!) Please, no more ultra-terrific, easy-to-guess-the-ending stories like that. You could give me a complex

Gerald Kreiemkamp,
1301 Chambers Rd., St. Louis, Mo. (63137)

(To paraphrase a familiar quote, we can outguess some of the readers all of the time, all of the readers some of the time, but it's tough to outguess all of the readers all of the time! Oh, yes—accept with our compliments the original Sid Greene artwork pages for "When Did Earth Vanish?"--*Editor*)

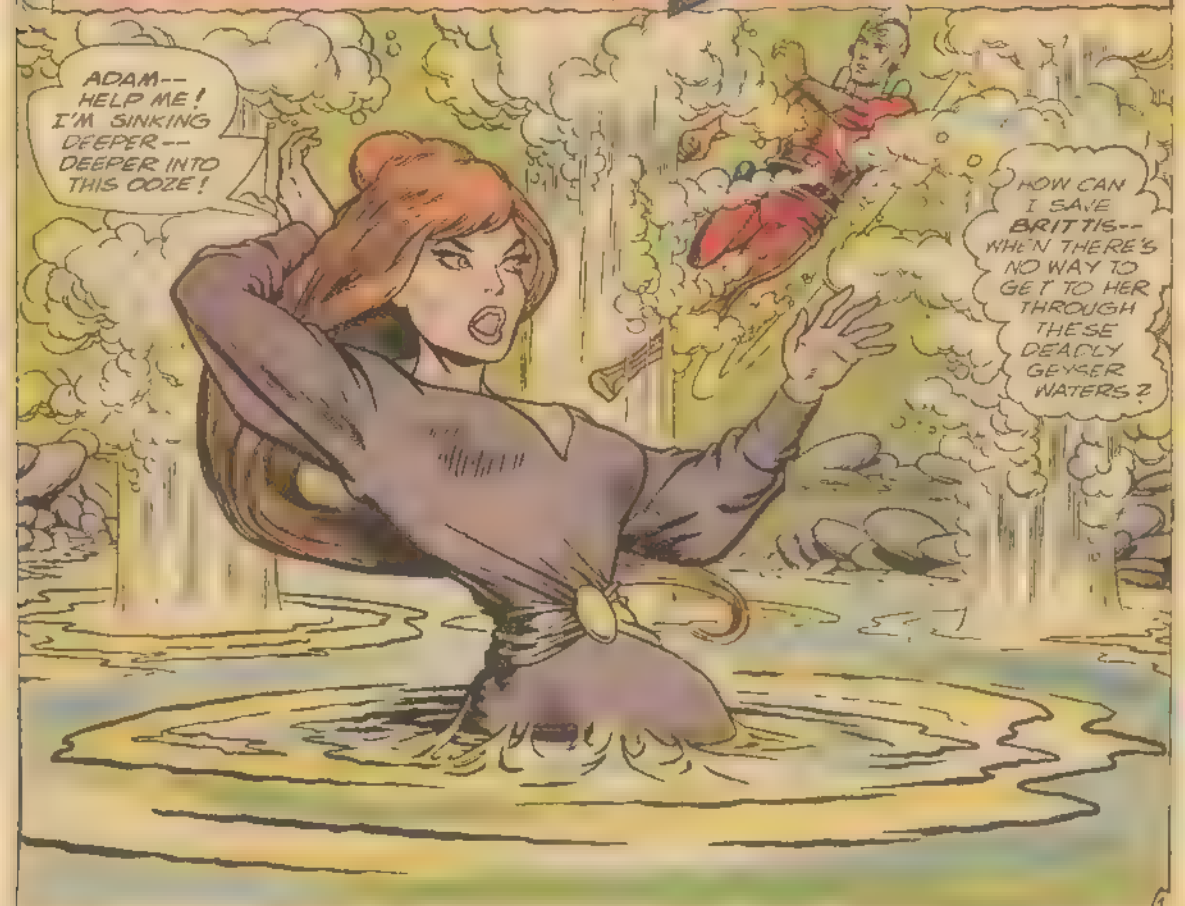
Address communications to VIA ROCKET MAIL, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

ADAM STRANGE

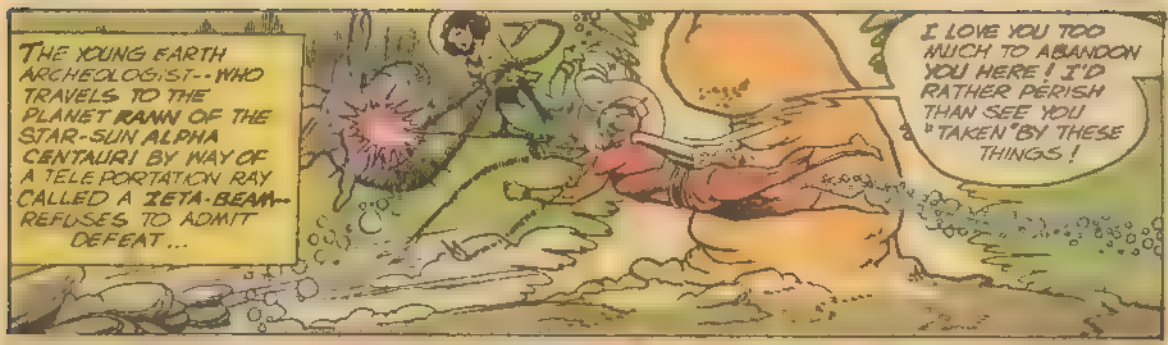
SIREN OF THE SPACE ARK

THE DEEPS OF SPACE ARE FILLED WITH MANY WONDERS, AND NONE SO UNUSUAL AS THE **SPACE ARK** THAT BRINGS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ACROSS THOUSANDS OF LIGHT YEARS TO THE PLANET **RANN**.

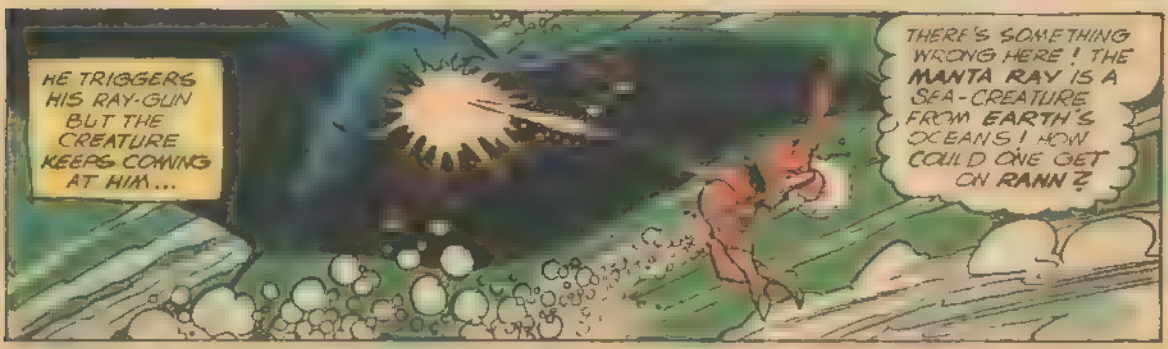
THERE SHE HAS ARRANGED A RENDEZVOUS WITH **ADAM STRANGE**--THE YOUNG EARTH ARCHEOLOGIST WHO TRAVELS TO THIS PLANET ON A TELEPORTATION BEAM--IN WHICH HE MUST PROVE HIS PROFESSED LOVE FOR HER--OR DIE!


ADAM--HELP ME! I'M SINKING DEEPER--DEEPER INTO THIS OOZE!
HOW CAN I SAVE BRITTIS--WHEN THERE'S NO WAY TO GET TO HER THROUGH THESE DEADLY GEYSER WATERS?

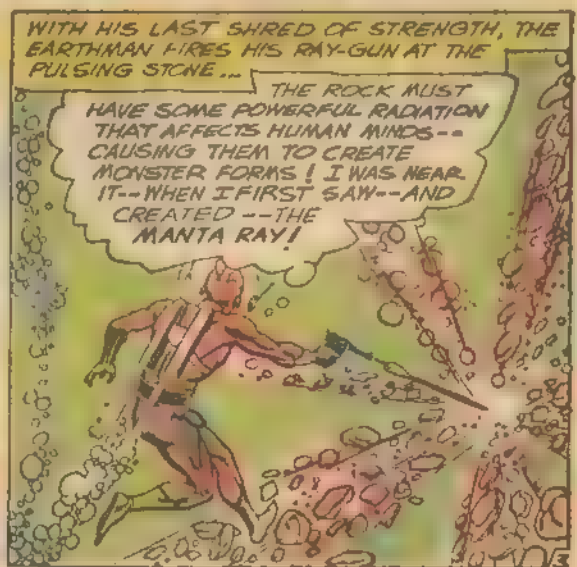
INTO THE GREEN DEPTHS OF THE PERMUVIAN SEA ON RANN DIVE A NATIVE GIRL AND AN "ALIEN" FROM EARTH..
WE MUST BE CAREFUL, ADAM! UNDERSEA MONSTERS INHABIT THESE CORAL REEFS!
NO ONE'S EVER SEEN THE LOCH NESS MONSTER ON EARTH, ALANNA! MAYBE YOUR MONSTERS ARE ALSO MYTHS!
JETS ON "SLOW AHEAD," THEY MOVE PAST A MARINE WONDERLAND, CONVERGING BY A SONIC DEVICE INVENTED BY ALANNA'S FATHER, EARDATH...
WELL, OUR MONSTERS HAVE BEEN SEEN BY MANY--ALTHOUGH ONLY A FEW HAVE LIVED TO TELL ABOUT THEM.
THEN--AS THE RANN GIRL GLIDES PAST A WEIRDLY GLOWING ROCK
ALANNA--WATCH OUT!
A RAY-GUN CUTS A PATH OF NUCLEAR VICLENCE THROUGH THE WATERS...
THOSE BLASTS DON'T SEEM TO BOTHER THE CREATURE--IT KEEPS COMING FOR ALANNA!
TWISTING AND DARTING, ALANNA MANAGES TO STAY CLEAR OF THE MARINE MENACE. THEN AS A COUPLE MORE JOINS THE ATTACK...
ADAM--I'M HOPELESSLY SURROUNDED! THERE'S NO KNOWN WEAPON THAT CAN HARM THESE THINGS THEY HAVEN'T ATTACKED YOU YET.. SO SAVE YOURSELF, DARLING!

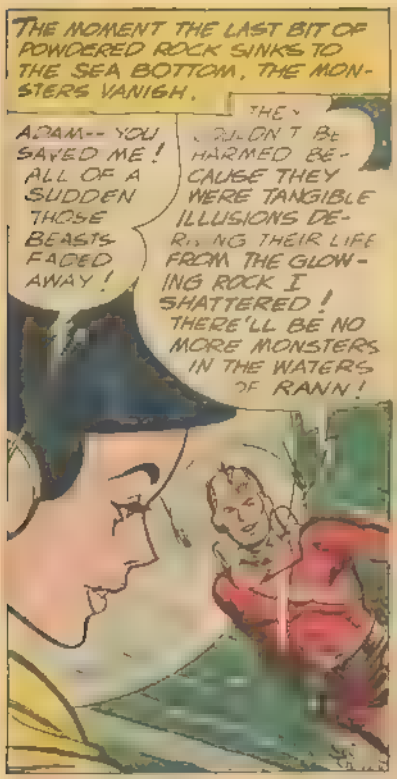

THE YOUNG EARTH ARCHEOLOGIST--WHO TRAVELS TO THE PLANET RANN OF THE STAR-SUN ALPHA CENTAURI BY WAY OF A TELEPORTATION RAY CALLED A ZETA-BEAM--REFUSES TO ADMIT DEFEAT...
I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH TO ABANDON YOU HERE! I'D RATHER PERISH THAN SEE YOU "TAKEN" BY THESE THINGS!

SUDDENLY A NEW MENACE CONFRONTS ADAM STRANGE HIMSELF...
AN EARTHLY MANTA RAY!? IF IT GETS ME WITH THAT STINGER... I'M DONE FOR!

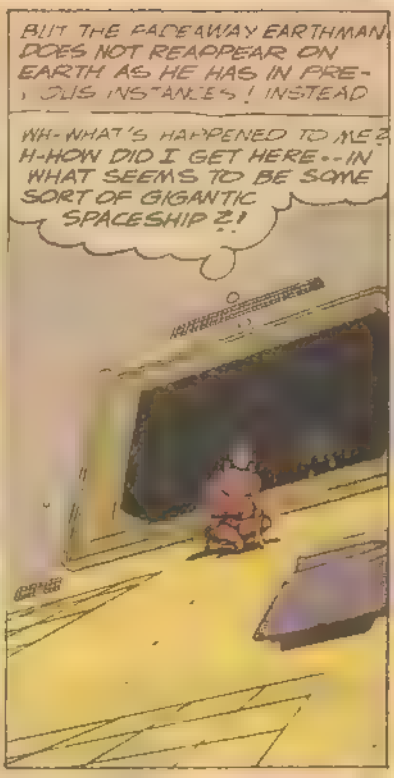

HE TRIGGERS HIS RAY-GUN BUT THE CREATURE KEEPS COMING AT HIM...
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG HERE! THE MANTA RAY IS A SEA-CREATURE FROM EARTH'S OCEANS! HOW COULD ONE GET ON RANN?

AS ALANNA IS BEING HERDED INTO A CORAL LAIR, ADAM CONTINUES TO BATTLE FOR HIS LIFE...
IT JUST STRUCK ME--! THOSE RANN SEA-BEASTS DIDN'T APPEAR UNTIL ALANNA SWAM PAST AN ODDLY GLOWING ROCK!


WITH HIS LAST SHRED OF STRENGTH, THE EARTHMAN FIRES HIS RAY-GUN AT THE PULSING STONE...
THE ROCK MUST HAVE SOME POWERFUL RADIATION THAT AFFECTS HUMAN MINDS--CAUSING THEM TO CREATE MONSTER FORMS! I WAS NEAR IT--WHEN I FIRST SAW--AND CREATED--THE MANTA RAY!


THE MOMENT THE LAST BIT OF POWDERED ROCK SINKS TO THE SEA BOTTOM, THE MONSTERS VANISH.
ADAM-- YOU SAVED ME! ALL OF A SUDDEN THOSE BEASTS FADED AWAY!
THEY COULDN'T BE HARMED BECAUSE THEY WERE TANGIBLE ILLUSIONS DERIVING THEIR LIFE FROM THE GLOWING ROCK I SHATTERED! THERE'LL BE NO MORE MONSTERS IN THE WATERS OF RANN!

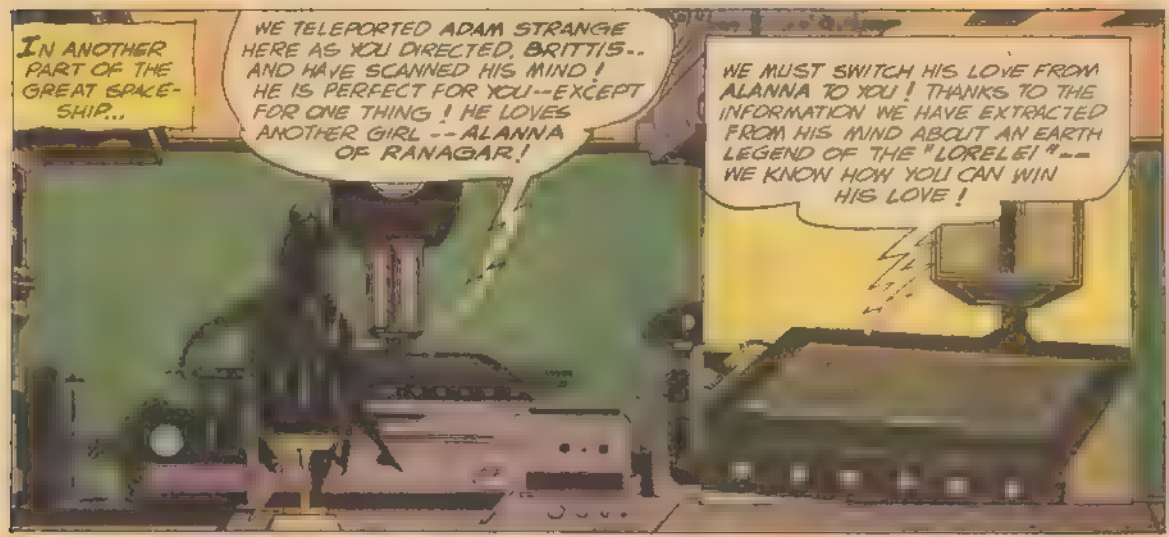
AS THEY JET OUT OF THE SEA...
I NEVER CEASE TO MARVEL AT YOU DARLING! YOU'RE A TRUE CHAMPION-- OHHH! THE ZETA-BEAM ON WHICH HE JOURNEYED TO RANN WITH MY NEW UNIFORM* IS WEARING OFF!
*EDITOR'S NOTE: AS REVEALED IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE'S STORY The ROBOT WRAITH OF RANN!"

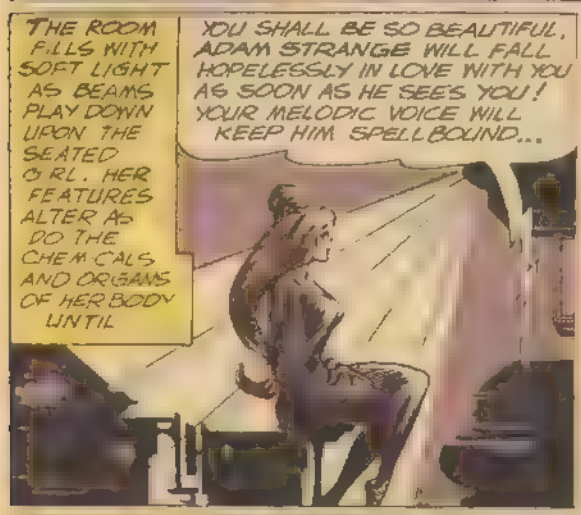

BUT THE FADEAWAY EARTHMAN DOES NOT REAPPEAR ON EARTH AS HE HAS IN PREVIOUS INSTANCES! INSTEAD
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME? H-HOW DID I GET HERE--IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE SOME SORT OF GIGANTIC SPACESHIP?!

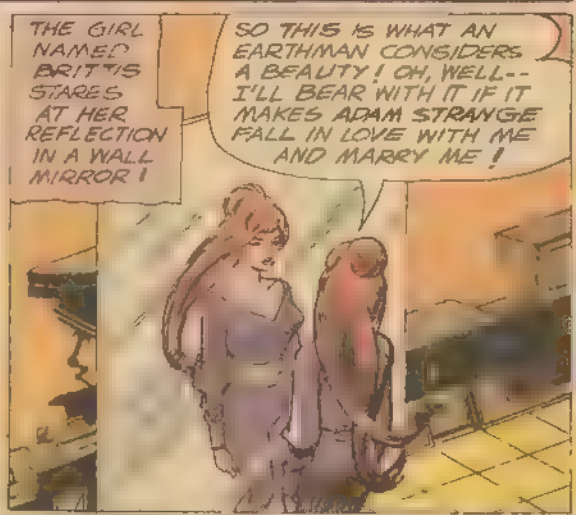
SUDDENLY.
THAT WALL SLIDING OPEN-- TO REVEAL A GUN-- AIMED AT ME!

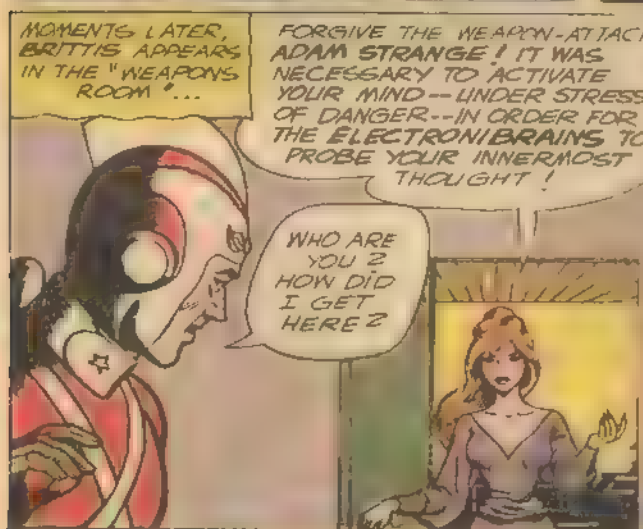
AN INSTANT BEFORE THE WEAPON HURLS A BLAST OF ENERGY AT HIM, ADAM DIVES SIDEWAYS.
BETTER SMASH THE GUN BEFORE IT CAN TAKE A SECOND SHOT AT ME!

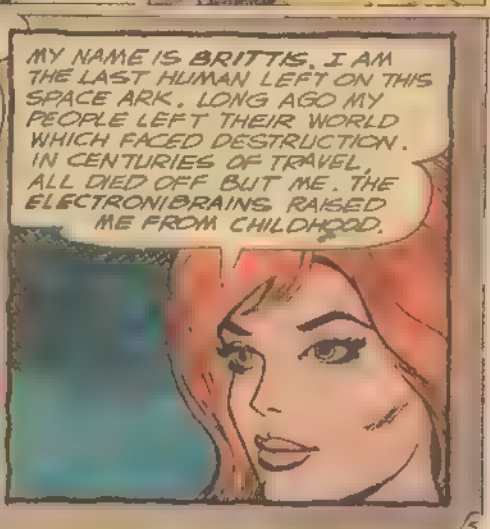
EVEN AS HE STARES AT THE MELTED GUN BARREL.
ANOTHER PANEL IN THE WALL OPENING-- AND ANOTHER GUN POINTING MY WAY! I SURE WISH I KNEW WHO'S GUNNING FOR ME!

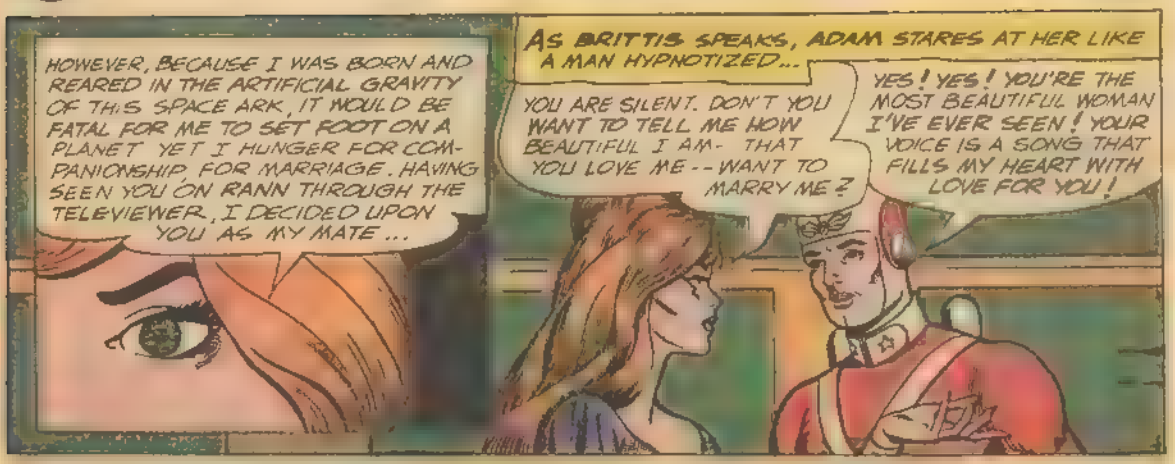

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE GREAT SPACE-SHIP...
WE TELEPORTED ADAM STRANGE HERE AS YOU DIRECTED, BRITTIS.. AND HAVE SCANNED HIS MIND! HE IS PERFECT FOR YOU--EXCEPT FOR ONE THING! HE LOVES ANOTHER GIRL --ALANNA OF RANAGAR!
WE MUST SWITCH HIS LOVE FROM ALANNA TO YOU! THANKS TO THE INFORMATION WE HAVE EXTRACTED FROM HIS MIND ABOUT AN EARTH LEGEND OF THE "LORELEI"--- WE KNOW HOW YOU CAN WIN HIS LOVE!

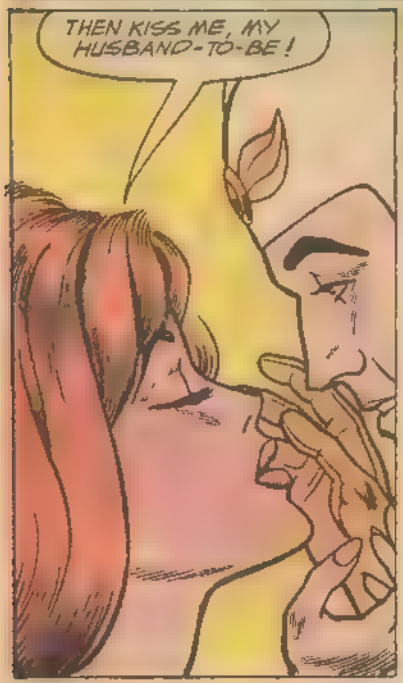

THE ROOM FILLS WITH SOFT LIGHT AS BEAMS PLAY DOWN UPON THE SEATED GIRL. HER FEATURES ALTER AS DO THE CHEMICALS AND ORGANS OF HER BODY UNTIL
YOU SHALL BE SO BEAUTIFUL, ADAM STRANGE WILL FALL HOPELESSLY IN LOVE WITH YOU AS SOON AS HE SEES YOU! YOUR MELODIC VOICE WILL KEEP HIM SPELLBOUND...

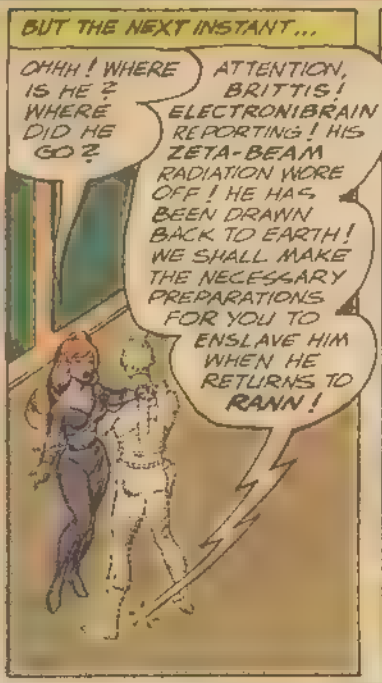

THE GIRL NAMED BRITTIS STARES AT HER REFLECTION IN A WALL MIRROR!
SO THIS IS WHAT AN EARTHMAN CONSIDERS A BEAUTY! OH, WELL-- I'LL BEAR WITH IT IF IT MAKES ADAM STRANGE FALL IN LOVE WITH ME AND MARRY ME!

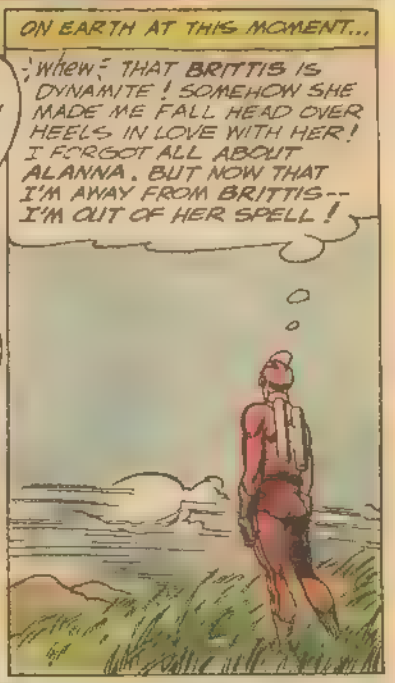

MOMENTS LATER, BRITTIS APPEARS IN THE "WEAPONS ROOM"...
FORGIVE THE WEAPON-ATTACK, ADAM STRANGE! IT WAS NECESSARY TO ACTIVATE YOUR MIND--UNDER STRESS OF DANGER--IN ORDER FOR THE ELECTRONIBRAINS TO PROBE YOUR INNERMOST THOUGHT!
WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID I GET HERE?

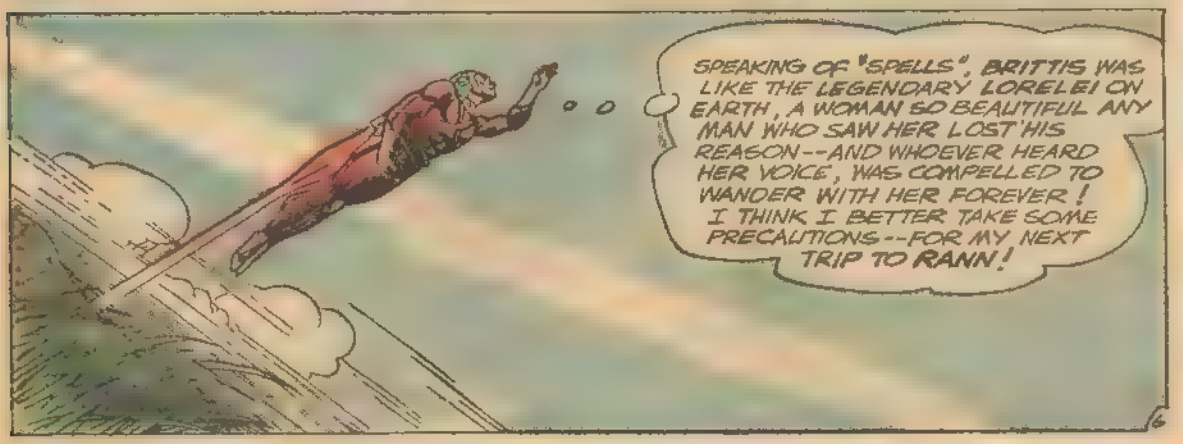

MY NAME IS BRITTIS. I AM THE LAST HUMAN LEFT ON THIS SPACE ARK. LONG AGO MY PEOPLE LEFT THEIR WORLD WHICH FACED DESTRUCTION. IN CENTURIES OF TRAVEL, ALL DIED OFF BUT ME. THE ELECTRONIBRAINS RAISED ME FROM CHILDHOOD.

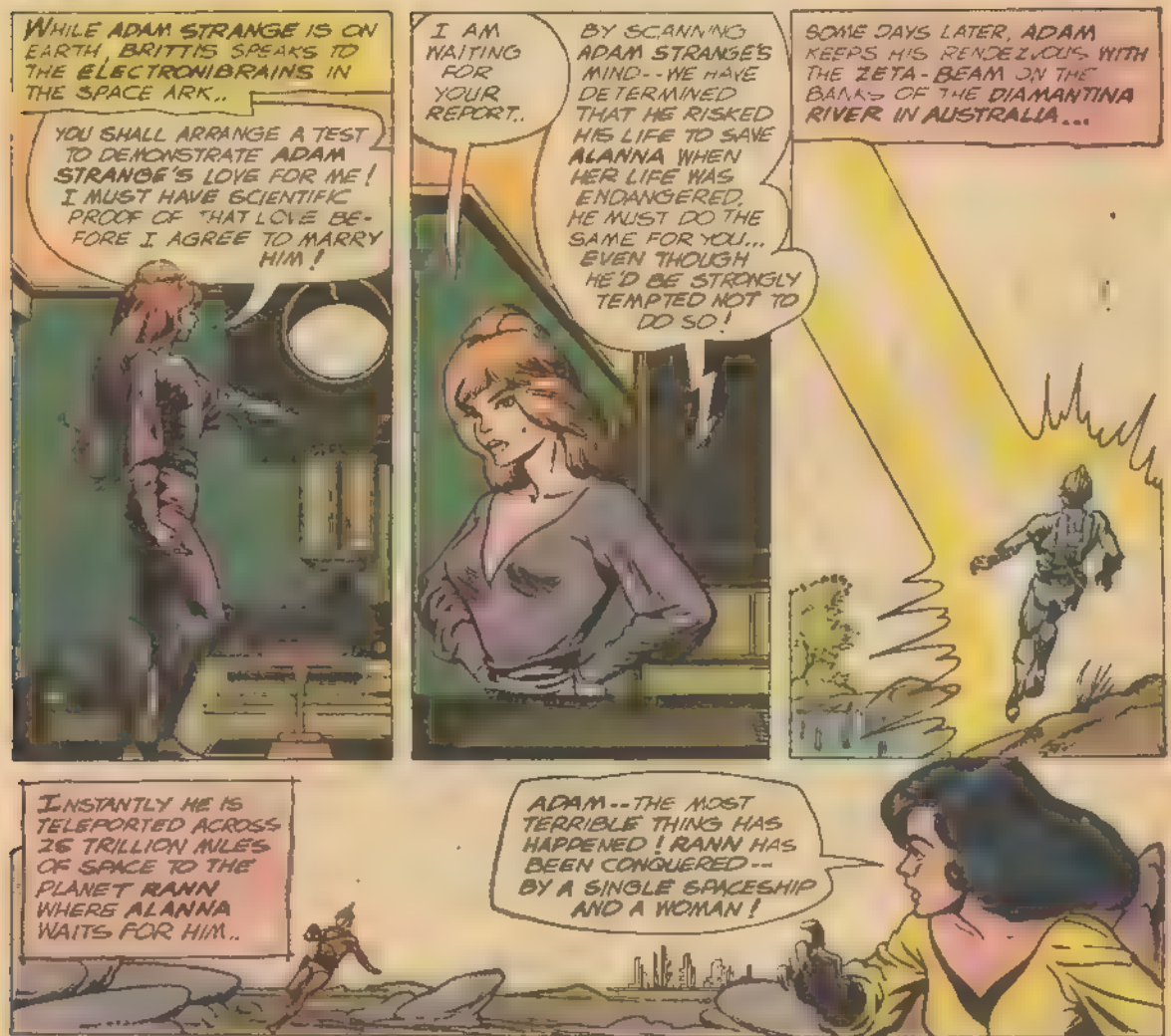

HOWEVER, BECAUSE I WAS BORN AND REARED IN THE ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY OF THIS SPACE ARK, IT WOULD BE FATAL FOR ME TO SET FOOT ON A PLANET YET I HUNGER FOR COMPANIONSHIP FOR MARRIAGE. HAVING SEEN YOU ON RANN THROUGH THE TELEVIEWER, I DECIDED UPON YOU AS MY MATE ...
AS BRITTIS SPEAKS, ADAM STARES AT HER LIKE A MAN HYPNOTIZED...
YOU ARE SILENT. DON'T YOU WANT TO TELL ME HOW BEAUTIFUL I AM- THAT YOU LOVE ME--WANT TO MARRY ME?
YES! YES! YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN I'VE EVER SEEN! YOUR VOICE IS A SONG THAT FILLS MY HEART WITH LOVE FOR YOU!

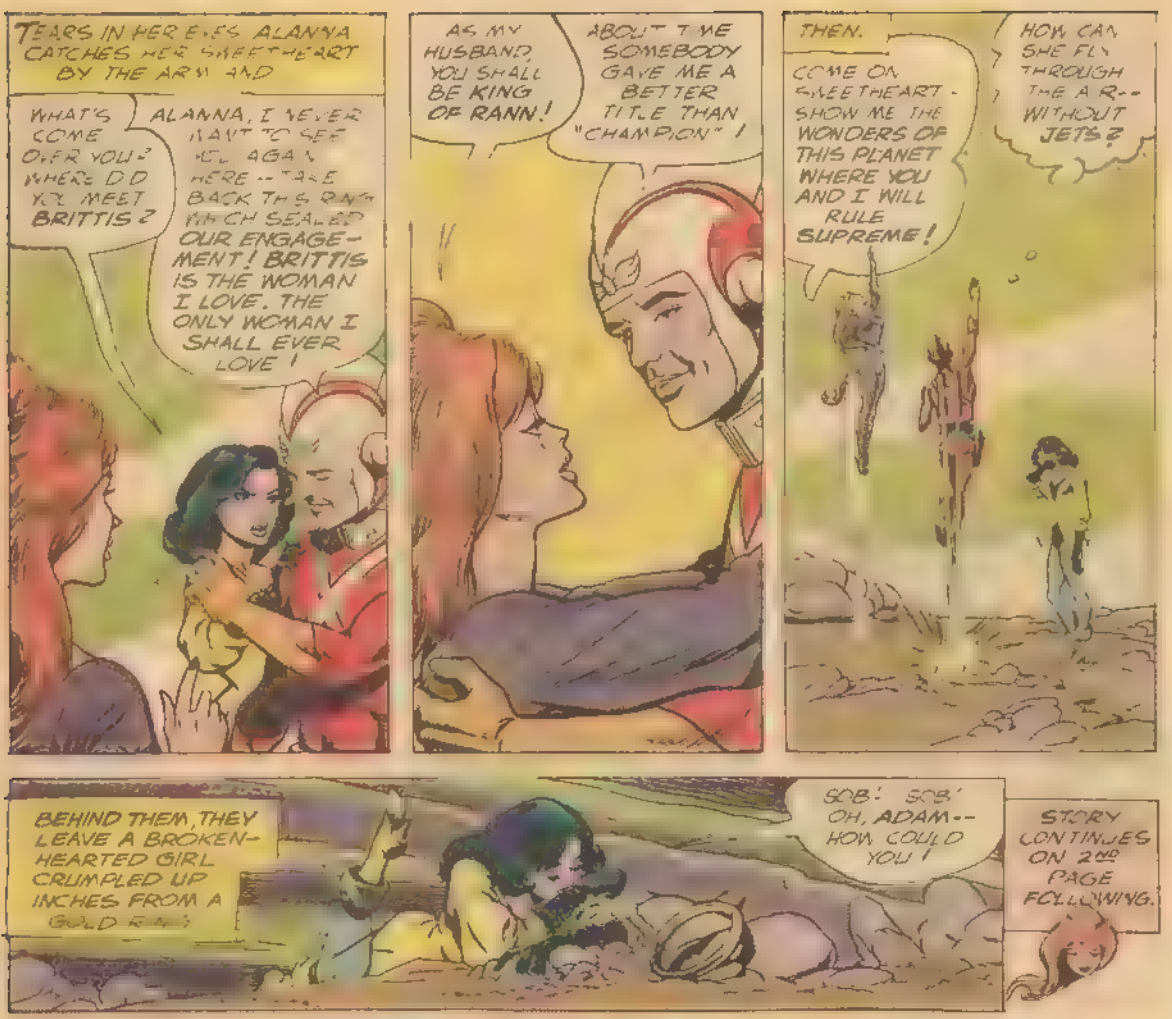

THEN KISS ME, MY HUSBAND-TO-BE!


BUT THE NEXT INSTANT...
OHHH! WHERE IS HE? WHERE DID HE GO?
ATTENTION, BRITTIS! ELECTRONIBRAIN REPORTING! HIS ZETA-BEAM RADIATION WORE OFF! HE HAS BEEN DRAWN BACK TO EARTH! WE SHALL MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS FOR YOU TO ENSLAVE HIM WHEN HE RETURNS TO RANN!


ON EARTH AT THIS MOMENT...
WHEW! THAT BRITTIS IS DYNAMITE! SOMEHOW SHE MADE ME FALL HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE WITH HER! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT ALANNA. BUT NOW THAT I'M AWAY FROM BRITTIS--I'M OUT OF HER SPELL!


SPEAKING OF "SPELLS", BRITTIS WAS LIKE THE LEGENDARY LORELEI ON EARTH, A WOMAN SO BEAUTIFUL ANY MAN WHO SAW HER LOST HIS REASON--AND WHOEVER HEARD HER VOICE, WAS COMPELLED TO WANDER WITH HER FOREVER! I THINK I BETTER TAKE SOME PRECAUTIONS--FOR MY NEXT TRIP TO RANN!


WHILE ADAM STRANGE IS ON EARTH, BRITTIS SPEAKS TO THE ELECTRONIBRAINS IN THE SPACE ARK..
YOU SHALL ARRANGE A TEST TO DEMONSTRATE ADAM STRANGE'S LOVE FOR ME! I MUST HAVE SCIENTIFIC PROOF OF THAT LOVE BEFORE I AGREE TO MARRY HIM!
I AM WAITING FOR YOUR REPORT..
BY SCANNING ADAM STRANGE'S MIND--WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO SAVE ALANNA WHEN HER LIFE WAS ENDANGERED, HE MUST DO THE SAME FOR YOU... EVEN THOUGH HE'D BE STRONGLY TEMPTED NOT TO DO SO!
SOME DAYS LATER, ADAM KEEPS HIS RENDEZVOUS WITH THE ZETA-BEAM ON THE BANKS OF THE DIAMANTINA RIVER IN AUSTRALIA...
INSTANTLY HE IS TELEPORTED ACROSS 26 TRILLION MILES OF SPACE TO THE PLANET RANN WHERE ALANNA WAITS FOR HIM..
ADAM--THE MOST TERRIBLE THING HAS HAPPENED! RANN HAS BEEN CONQUERED--BY A SINGLE SPACESHIP AND A WOMAN!
TO THE STUNNED AMAZEMENT OF THE GIRL WHO LOVES HIM, ADAM MOVES PAST HER--AND INTO THE ARMS OF A LOVELY GIRL...
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO COME AND SAVE US--AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING? OHHH--NO! SHE'S THE ONE WHO HAS CONQUERED RANN! OUR ENEMY!
ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT ON EARTH WAS YOU, BRITTIS DARLING! I LOVE YOU SO MUCH--I'D DIE FOR YOU!
BUT I WANT YOU TO STAY ALIVE FOR ME, DEAR.


TEARS IN HER EYES ALANYA CATCHES HER SWEETHEART BY THE ARM AND
WHAT'S COME OVER YOU? WHERE DID YOU MEET BRITTIS?
ALANNA, I NEVER HAVE TO SEE YOU AGAIN HERE -- TAKE BACK THIS RING WHICH SEALED OUR ENGAGEMENT! BRITTIS IS THE WOMAN I LOVE. THE ONLY WOMAN I SHALL EVER LOVE!
AS MY HUSBAND, YOU SHALL BE KING OF RANN!
ABOUT TIME SOMEBODY GAVE ME A BETTER TITLE THAN "CHAMPION"!
THEN.
COME ON SWEETHEART - SHOW ME THE WONDERS OF THIS PLANET WHERE YOU AND I WILL RULE SUPREME!
HOW CAN SHE FLY THROUGH THE A.R.-- WITHOUT JETS?
BEHIND THEM, THEY LEAVE A BROKEN-HEARTED GIRL CRUMPLED UP INCHES FROM A GOLD R...
SOB! SOB! OH, ADAM-- HOW COULD YOU!
STORY CONTINUES ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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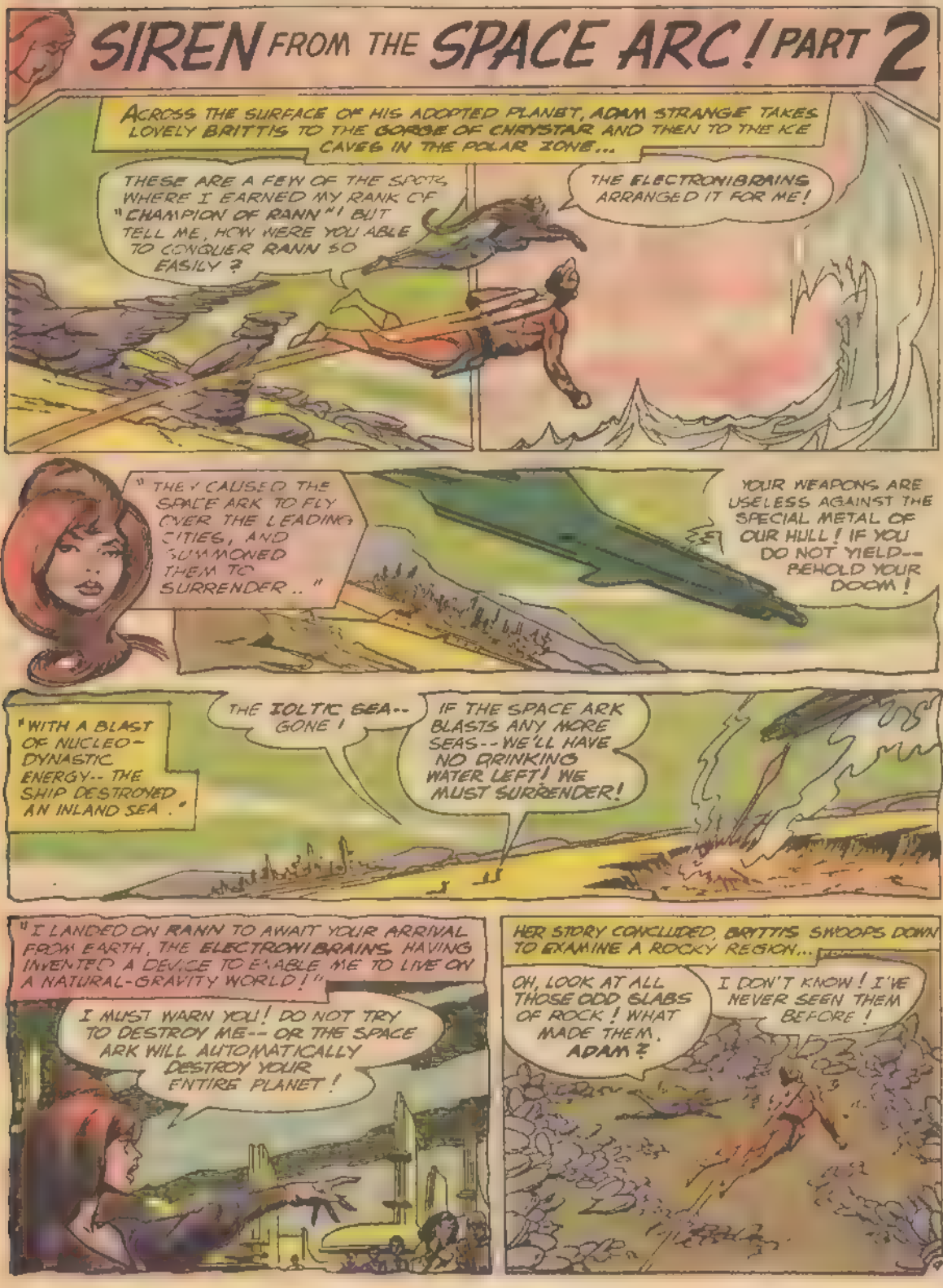
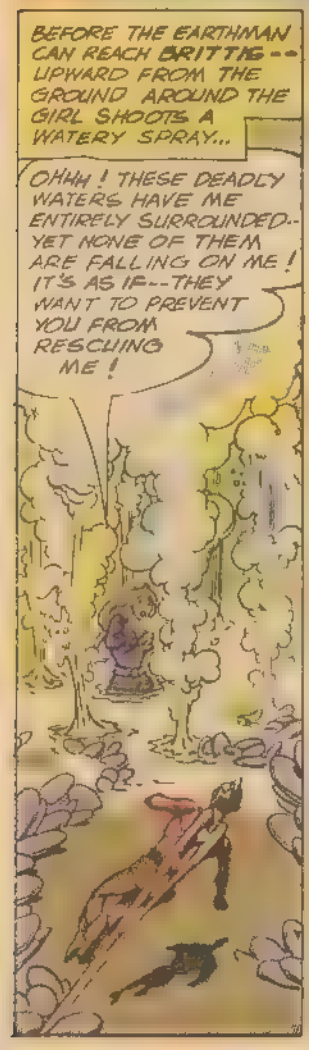
SIREN FROM THE SPACE ARC! PART 2


ACROSS THE SURFACE OF HIS ADOPTED PLANET, ADAM STRANGE TAKES LOVELY BRITTIS TO THE GORGE OF CHRYSTAR AND THEN TO THE ICE CAVES IN THE POLAR ZONE...
THESE ARE A FEW OF THE SPOTS WHERE I EARNED MY RANK OF "CHAMPION OF RANN"! BUT TELL ME, HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO CONQUER RANN SO EASILY?
THE ELECTRONIBRAINS ARRANGED IT FOR ME!
"THEY CAUSED THE SPACE ARK TO FLY OVER THE LEADING CITIES, AND SUMMONED THEM TO SURRENDER.."
YOUR WEAPONS ARE USELESS AGAINST THE SPECIAL METAL OF OUR HULL! IF YOU DO NOT YIELD-- BEHOLD YOUR DOOM!
"WITH A BLAST OF NUCLEO-DYNASTIC ENERGY-- THE SHIP DESTROYED AN INLAND SEA."
THE IOLTIC SEA-- GONE!
IF THE SPACE ARK BLASTS ANY MORE SEAS--WE'LL HAVE NO DRINKING WATER LEFT! WE MUST SURRENDER!
"I LANDED ON RANN TO AWAIT YOUR ARRIVAL FROM EARTH, THE ELECTRONIBRAINS HAVING INVENTED A DEVICE TO ENABLE ME TO LIVE ON A NATURAL-GRAVITY WORLD!"
I MUST WARN YOU! DO NOT TRY TO DESTROY ME-- OR THE SPACE ARK WILL AUTOMATICALLY DESTROY YOUR ENTIRE PLANET!
HER STORY CONCLUDED, BRYTTIS SWOOPS DOWN TO EXAMINE A ROCKY REGION...
OH, LOOK AT ALL THOSE ODD SLABS OF ROCK! WHAT MADE THEM, ADAM?
I DON'T KNOW! I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE!

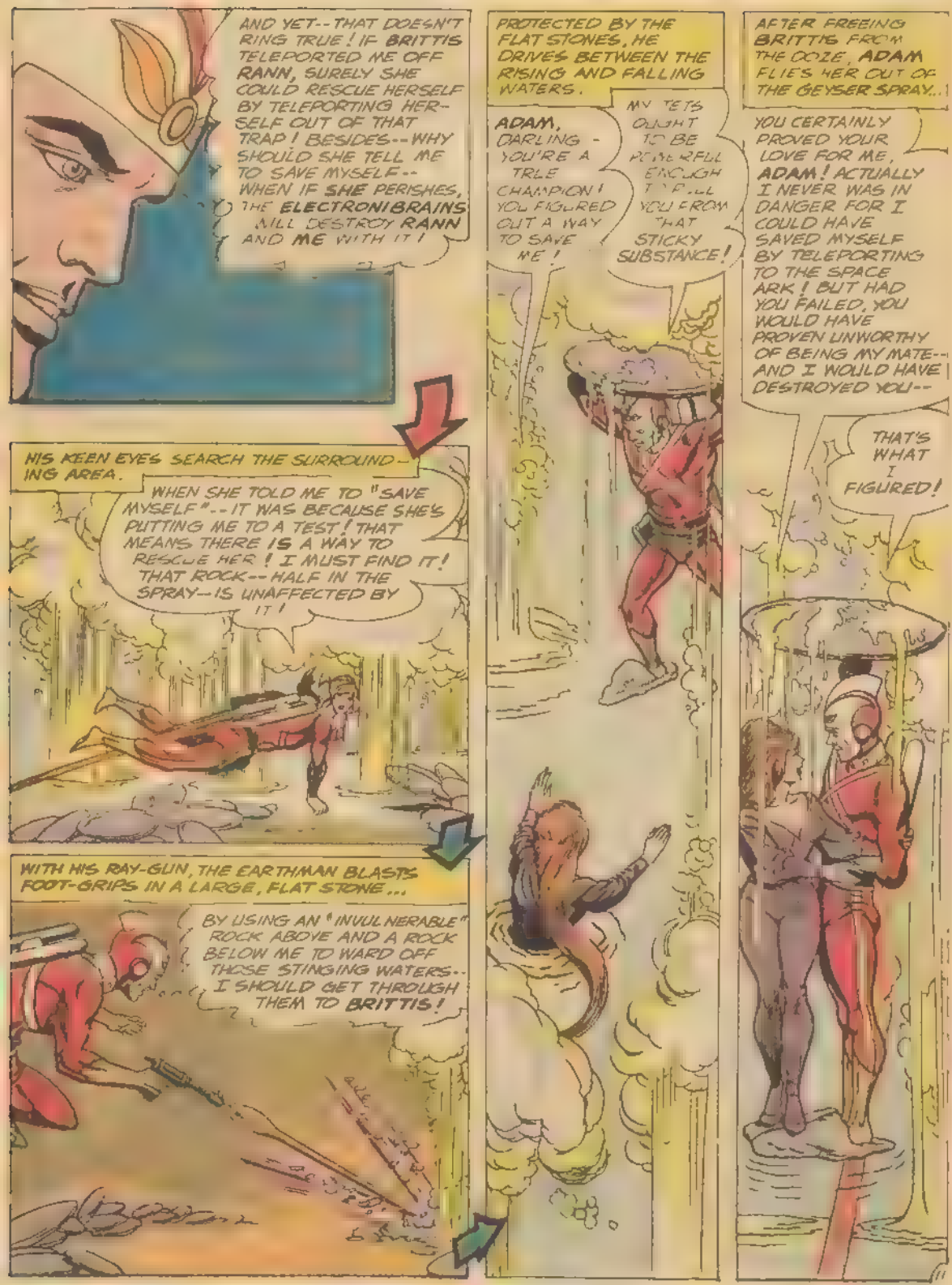
AS HER FEET TOUCH THE GROUND, THEY SINK INTO AN OOZE THAT GRIPS THE QUEEN OF RANN LIKE GLUE...
ADAM-- HELP ME! I'M SINKING DEEPER-- DEEPER...
I'M COMING, DARLING!


BEFORE THE EARTHMAN CAN REACH BRITTIS-- UPWARD FROM THE GROUND AROUND THE GIRL SHOOTS A WATERY SPRAY...
OHHH! THESE DEADLY WATERS HAVE ME ENTIRELY SURROUNDED-- YET NONE OF THEM ARE FALLING ON ME! IT'S AS IF-- THEY WANT TO PREVENT YOU FROM RESCUING ME!

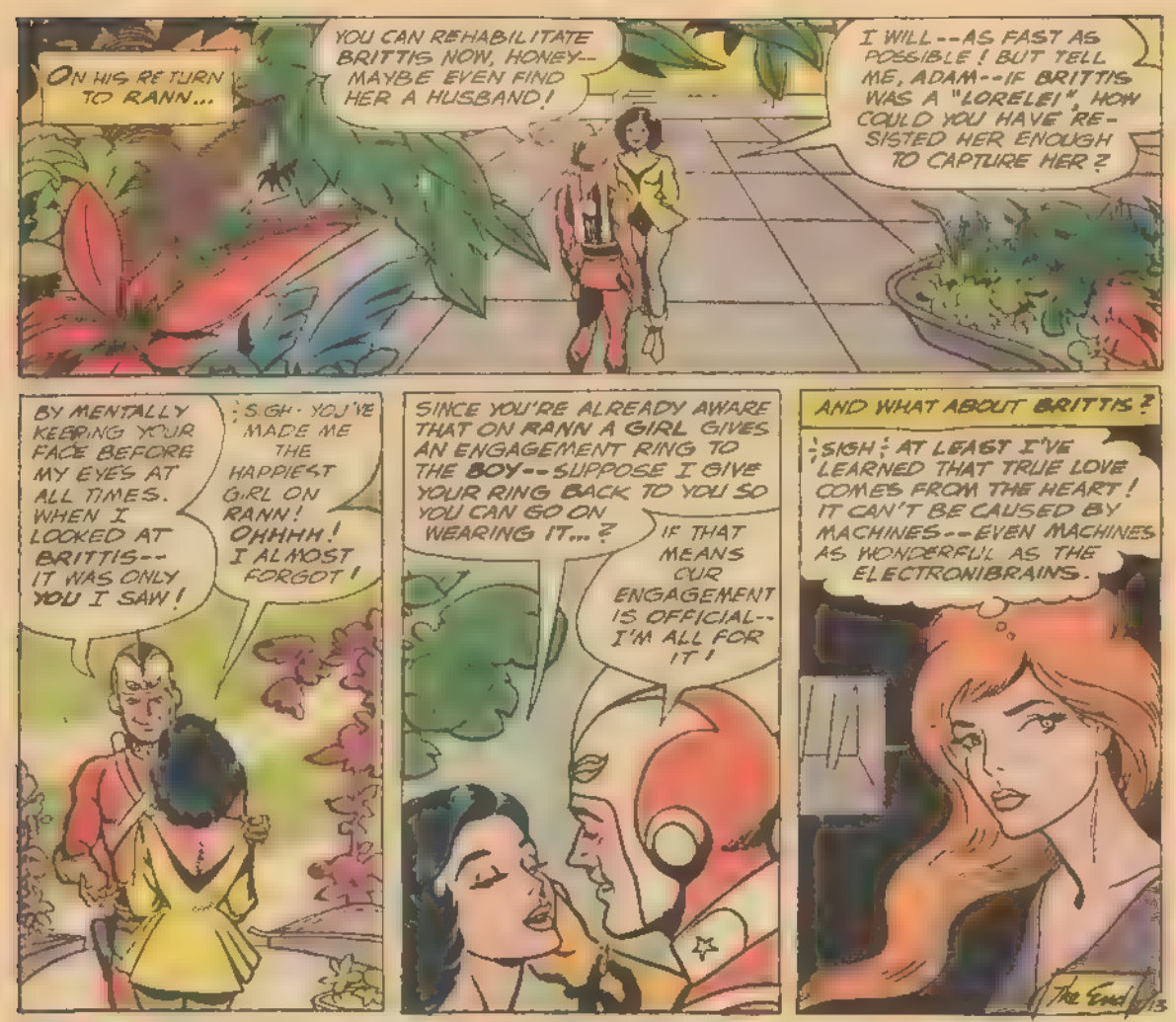
ADAM SPRINGS FORWARD-- BUT AT THE FIRST TOUCH OF THE SPRAY, DRAWS BACK...
OWWW! THAT STUFF STINGS! IF I WENT THROUGH IT-- THOSE ACID-WATERS WOULD KILL ME!
I'M SINKING FASTER, ADAM! HURRY-- HURRY...!

AS HE DARTS BACK AND FORTH, SEEKING A NON-EXISTENT PATH THROUGH THE DEADLY SHOWER...
IT'S USELESS! THERE'S NO WAY THROUGH THIS WATER! THEY HAVEN'T AFFECTED YOU YET-- SO SAVE YOURSELF, DARLING!
I LOVE YOU TOO MUCH TO ABANDON YOU HERE! I'D RATHER PERISH THAN--

GREAT STARS! ALANNA AND I EXCHANGED ALMOST THE SAME WORDS TO EACH OTHER WHEN THE SEA MONSTERS WERE THREATENING HER! Hmm-- BRITTIS SAID HER ELECTRONIBRAINS SCANNED MY MIND! SHE MUST KNOW ABOUT MY RESCUING ALANNA AND-- WOMAN-LIKE-- WANTS ME TO RESCUE HER TOO!


AND YET--THAT DOESN'T RING TRUE! IF BRITTIS TELEPORTED ME OFF RANN, SURELY SHE COULD RESCUE HERSELF BY TELEPORTING HERSELF OUT OF THAT TRAP! BESIDES--WHY SHOULD SHE TELL ME TO SAVE MYSELF--WHEN IF SHE PERISHES, THE ELECTRONIBRAINS WILL DESTROY RANN AND ME WITH IT!
HIS KEEN EYES SEARCH THE SURROUNDING AREA.
WHEN SHE TOLD ME TO "SAVE MYSELF"--IT WAS BECAUSE SHE'S PUTTING ME TO A TEST! THAT MEANS THERE IS A WAY TO RESCUE HER! I MUST FIND IT! THAT ROCK--HALF IN THE SPRAY--IS UNAFFECTED BY IT!
WITH HIS RAY-GUN, THE EARTHMAN BLASTS FOOT-GRIPS IN A LARGE, FLAT STONE...
BY USING AN "INVULNERABLE" ROCK ABOVE AND A ROCK BELOW ME TO WARD OFF THOSE STINGING WATERS--I SHOULD GET THROUGH THEM TO BRITTIS!
PROTECTED BY THE FLAT STONES, HE DRIVES BETWEEN THE RISING AND FALLING WATERS.
ADAM, DARLING--YOU'RE A TRUE CHAMPION! YOU FIGURED OUT A WAY TO SAVE ME!
MY JETS OUGHT TO BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO PULL YOU FROM THAT STICKY SUBSTANCE!
AFTER FREEING BRITTIS FROM THE OOZE, ADAM FLIES HER OUT OF THE GEYSER SPRAY...!
YOU CERTAINLY PROVED YOUR LOVE FOR ME, ADAM! ACTUALLY I NEVER WAS IN DANGER FOR I COULD HAVE SAVED MYSELF BY TELEPORTING TO THE SPACE ARK! BUT HAD YOU FAILED, YOU WOULD HAVE PROVEN UNWORTHY OF BEING MY MATE--AND I WOULD HAVE DESTROYED YOU--
THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED!

SUDDENLY ATOM KICKS OFF THE FLAT STONES FROM HIS FEET AND GRABS BRITTIS' BELT BUCKLE.
ADAM--WHAT ARE YOU DOING--?!
THIS BELT BUCKLE IS THE ONE THING YOU WEAR NOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ON A THE SPACE ARK WHEN YOU TOLD ME IT WOULD BE FATAL FOR YOU TO SET FOOT ON A PLANET! IT MUST BE THE DEVICE THAT NOW PROTECTS YOU!
"
"MUST ALSO BE THE DEVICE THAT ENABLES YOU TO FLY - AND TO TELEPORT YOU BACK TO THE SPACE ARK.
ADAM--NO! I'LL BE WITH N A FEW DAYS F I'M NOT WEARING THAT BUCKLE! AND REMEMBER F I DIE--THE ELECTRONIBRAINS ABOARD THE SPACE ARK WILL DESTROY ALL RANN!
I HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE TO PROTECT RANN! AH--HERE COMES ALANNA! SHE'LL HOLD YOU HERE WHILE I TRAVEL UP TO THE SPACE ARK!
ADAM, I FINALLY SAW YOUR MESSAGE IN THE RING!
WHEN I GOT THROUGH CRYING I REALIZED I'D NEVER GIVEN YOU AN "ENGAGEMENT" RING! I EXAMINED IT UNDER A MAGNIFYING GLASS--AND SAW YOUR MESSAGE FOR ME TO TRUST YOU, THAT YOU WERE PLAY-ACTING--TO SAVE RANN!
YES, I WAS PLAYING BRITTIS' GAME HAD I FOUGHT WITH HER SHE COULD HAVE TELEPORTED ME TO THE SPACE ARK, WHERE THE ELECTRONIBRAINS WOULD HAVE DESTROYED ME I HAD TO WIN HER TRUST I LOVED HER WHILE I SOUGHT A WAY TO OVERCOME HER!
WITH BRITTIS N USTOD, ADAM ETS TO THE SPACE ARK AND ARRA F TO HAVE T TOWED BY A RANN SPACE SHIP TO THE OUTERMOST LIMITS OF ALPHA CENTAURI'S SOLAR SYSTEM
NOW TO RETURN TO BRITTIS AND GIVE HER THE BELT BUCKLE SHE NEEDS TO STAY ALIVE! I REMOVED THE TELEPORT DEVICE SHE CAN NEVER USE IT AGAIN!


ON HIS RETURN TO RANN...
YOU CAN REHABILITATE BRITTIS NOW, HONEY--MAYBE EVEN FIND HER A HUSBAND!
I WILL--AS FAST AS POSSIBLE! BUT TELL ME, ADAM--IF BRITTIS WAS A "LORELEI", HOW COULD YOU HAVE RESISTED HER ENOUGH TO CAPTURE HER?
BY MENTALLY KEEPING YOUR FACE BEFORE MY EYES AT ALL TIMES. WHEN I LOOKED AT BRITTIS--IT WAS ONLY YOU I SAW!
;SIGH· YOU'VE MADE ME THE HAPPIEST GIRL ON RANN! OHHHH! I ALMOST FORGOT!
SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY AWARE THAT ON RANN A GIRL GIVES AN ENGAGEMENT RING TO THE BOY--SUPPOSE I GIVE YOUR RING BACK TO YOU SO YOU CAN GO ON WEARING IT...?
IF THAT MEANS OUR ENGAGEMENT IS OFFICIAL--I'M ALL FOR IT!
AND WHAT ABOUT BRITTIS?
;SIGH; AT LEAST I'VE LEARNED THAT TRUE LOVE COMES FROM THE HEART! IT CAN'T BE CAUSED BY MACHINES--EVEN MACHINES AS WONDERFUL AS THE ELECTRONIBRAINS.
The End

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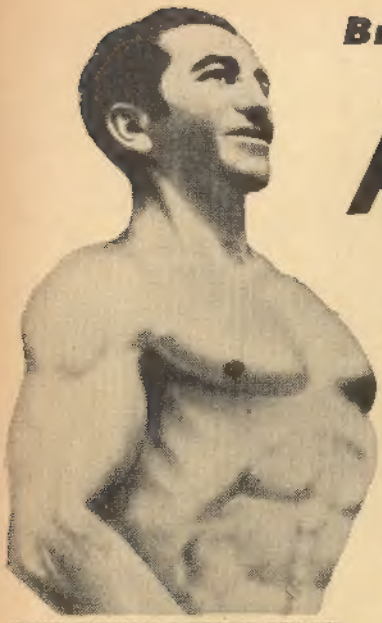

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